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Special Purim issue

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Annan said preparing Lebanon withdrawal plan

By DAVID RUDGE

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is reported to be secretly drawing up a proposal that would facilitate the withdrawal of the IDF from southern Lebanon and that would be acceptable to Israel, Lebanon, and Syria.

According to reports, Annan will be bringing the proposal when he visits the region in less than two weeks. He is to visit Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, and Israel.

Annan was hosted at a meeting at the White House by President Bill Clinton yesterday.

There have been reports in the Lebanese press that Annan will be coming with a proposal based on Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon, for the Lebanese government to reassert effective authority over the region, and for the restoration of international peace and security.

According to Channel 2 News, Annan's proposal consists of five main clauses: Israel's acceptance of 425; the Lebanese Army would deploy in areas vacated by the IDF and Hizbullah; the Grapes of Wrath understandings would continue; UNIFIL would be significantly expanded; and Israel would work for peace accords with Syria and Lebanon.

At the UN, spokesman Fred Eckhard denied the Channel 2 report, telling the AP, "The secretary-general has no five-point plan on Lebanon."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was asked by Channel 2 about the reported Annan proposal. "I have not received any details about this, so it's too early to say," Netanyahu was quoted as saying. "But if a proposal were to be made in relation to our recent initiatives, proposals which fit with our security, I would certainly view it with interest."

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said that "UNIFIL is not aware of any secret initiative by the secretary-general."

Syria, meanwhile, claims that it has thwarted Israel's efforts to create a split between it and Lebanon by proposing a withdrawal. Damascus newspapers said Lebanon's and Syria's united front had also foiled Israel's attempts to seek European support for the initiative.

However, other reports said Lebanese leaders had made it clear in meetings with a senior US official that Lebanon could not accept Israel's terms, although it would not be in a position to refuse if the proposal were to come from the UN.

In the security zone, two IDF soldiers were lightly wounded in a Hizbullah mortar and anti-tank missiles attack on the Dlat position on Tuesday night. They were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group is continuing its discussions on complaints by Israel and Lebanon over recent breaches of the understandings.

Jay Bushinsky adds:

The cabinet held its first meeting on the proposed withdrawal from southern Lebanon yesterday, hearing experts on the Syrian and Lebanese governments' attitudes. It could not be determined, on the basis of the data presented, whether the Lebanese authorities genuinely seek the IDF's departure or whether the Lebanese Army has the capability to control the area.

AGENDA

Whither the king

Approaching Akaba, past the border which separates it from lively Eilat, one can't help but notice a sort of city cum massive parking lot in which thousands of idle trucks are parked. This is not a chop shop where stolen vehicles are dismantled, like those exposed this week in the groves surrounding Tulkarm. This is an enormous area which, more than anything, symbolizes Jordan's economic plight.

Before the Gulf War these trucks imbued the Hashemite kingdom with a breath of life. They transported goods and fuel from the port of Akaba to Baghdad.

According to Jordanian officials, in those days more than 12,000 heavy vehicles traveled this route. This not only provided a livelihood for the families of the 12,000 drivers, but included transportation companies, hired and substitute drivers, port services, and hundreds of owners of small restaurants and motels who had a thriving business in roadside service stations. Today, more than 10,000 trucks are rusting in the parking lot. About 1,000 trucks still ply the road with authorized loads, permitted to enter Iraq despite the sanctions.

See AGENDA, Page 6

KP duty ain't what it used to be

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The concept was boldly original, in fact tinged with genius: All soldiers assigned to kitchen duty will no longer deal with preparing food.

Surgeon-General Brig.-Gen. Ariel Eldad has issued orders barring soldiers sent to help out in the kitchen from taking part in any phase of food preparation, including the peeling of most vegetables. This has to be left up to the trained cooks.

Military sources said that the reason for the ruling is that too many soldiers, more accustomed to clutching a rifle, have been slicing themselves with kitchen knives.

The ruling does permit soldiers to continue to peel potatoes. But this too may soon be barred pending the outcome of an examination by IDF medical officials, the IDF said.

Mordechai moves to ease tensions



Thousands attend yesterday's funeral in Dura of the three Palestinian workers killed by soldiers at a roadblock on Tuesday. (Brian Hendler)

Scores of Arab protesters injured

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

In a high-level bid to ease tensions with the Palestinians, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai telephoned Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas

last night to express sorrow over the killing of three Palestinians by Israeli soldiers.

Hebron protesters threaten new intifada, Page 2

Mordechai updated Abbas on his visit to the Tarkumiya roadblock and promised that details of the investigation into the shooting would be relayed to the PA. He also called on Abbas to help calm the tensions.

Outraged Palestinians warned of a second intifada, as Arafat declared the killings were "a massacre in cold blood," and fierce rioting broke out in Hebron, Dura, the nearby El Fawar refugee camp, and the Beit El military junction.

One border policeman was lightly injured by a stone during clashes at the junction in the afternoon. Palestinian sources claimed some

30 Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets in the clashes, the majority in Hebron; others said 15. Speaking to reporters during his visit to the roadblock, Mordechai said IDF units would remain deployed for possible outbreaks of violence.

"It was an exceptional incident," Mordechai said. "It makes us uneasy, because no one wants to harm Palestinians returning home from work. I hope everyone understands the incident as it should be understood. It was an accident, albeit a significant one, and I call on the Palestinians and all elements involved to restore calm."

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan said that, after the initial investigation, it seemed that the Palestinian driving the van intended to attack the soldiers.

Dayan last night announced that the two soldiers arrested in the shootings would be released today.

"You have to remember that the incident began when the driver of the vehicle jumped the line of cars and spurred forwards," he said. "What the soldiers saw was a driver who was running down their commander and they reacted to this. It's pretty clear that there was no intention by the Palestinians to carry out an attack."

See TENSIONS, Page 2

US court: Iran owes Flatows nearly \$250m.

By HILLY KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — A federal judge yesterday found Iran liable for nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in damages for causing the death of New Jersey native Alisa Flatow in the Kfar Darom bus bombing three years ago.

The decision is a major step forward in her family's pursuit of damages based on laws that were written with them in mind, which stripped the immunity of foreign countries from civil suits in the US by Americans.

"The court cannot be stronger in condemning this kind of action," said Judge Royce Lamberth, referring to the terrorist attack on April 9, 1995, that the State Department believes was perpetrated by Islamic Jihad and funded by Iran.

The award far exceeds the \$150 million that the Flatows sought when they filed the suit last year, and comes much sooner than the seven years their lawyer, Steven Perles, had originally predicted the case would take to be decided.

Iran was in "default" for not appearing as a defendant when the case was heard last week, Lamberth said.

After the decision was announced, Stephen Flatow said the award brings "no closure" to the family over his daughter's death, but "moves us closer to recovery."

"You can't replace that person, you can't clone that person. At Alisa's funeral, I said we want justice. And we're on the road to that," he said, surrounded by his wife Rosalyn and their daughters Gail and Ilana and son Elian. Another daughter, Francine, is studying at a Jerusalem yeshiva this year.

See FLATOW, Page 2

Hitler birthday bash will raise funds for human rights

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — A march by white supremacists celebrating the 109th birthday of Adolf Hitler could turn into the single largest grass-roots fund-raiser for human rights in the US.

When the Aryan Nations, a white supremacist group, planned a parade in Coeur d'Alene, a northern Idaho town, the Jewish Defense League demanded the right to its own parade. The townspeople, meanwhile, planned to spend the day at a human-rights rally across the state line in Washington.

But, in a move to exploit the Aryan Nations' parade, a coalition of civil-rights groups has come up with a savvy plan to turn the march into a fund-raiser that could generate up to \$1 million for human rights.

Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Judy still is considering a request by the Aryan Nations for a permit for a parade on Saturday, April 18, two days before Hitler's birthday. Judy denied a request for a permit, for the same day and at the same place, from the JDL.

"We don't have to have two conflicting parades on the same day," he said.

He is expected to grant the Aryan Nations a permit next week. Judy has said he doesn't want to allow the parade by the supremacist group, which has its headquarters in nearby Hayden Lake, but he may not have the legal grounds to deny it.

The townspeople plan to show their disdain for the Aryan Nations



Purim parade preparations

Participants in today's 'adloyada' in Tel Aviv prepare for the Purim parade yesterday. Purim, which began last night, is celebrated tonight in Jerusalem and other cities that were walled in the time of Joshua. Over 10,000 people are expected to march in today's 'adloyada,' which begins at 11 a.m. and proceeds down Ben-Yehuda and Allenby streets, which will be closed to traffic from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. (Yael Someth/Israel Sun)

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NEWS

in brief

A-G orders probe of Hanegbi

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has ordered a police investigation into allegations of irregularities on the part of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi. The allegations relate to the period when Hanegbi served as secretary-general of the non-profit organization Derech Tzila. Hanegbi has defended accepting a salary from a group which promoted road-safety legislation he had drawn up with then-Labor MK Avraham Burg. *Batsheva Tsur*

Biran protests GSS probe for leakers

General Security Service agents yesterday interrogated senior officials at the Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry in a bid to find out the source of leaks to the news media about the Mossad's bungled wiretap in Switzerland and the originally-secret trip to Paris by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and the prime minister's foreign policy adviser, Uzi Arad. In a one-man protest against the GSS action, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general, Yoav Biran, said that although he did not leak "a classified document," he is not willing to cooperate in a probe that is not comprehensive and which, in the end, "will not find the leak's source. He said he would only go along with an investigation that reached everyone who had access to the secrets in question and in which a lie detector was used. *Joy Bushinsky*

Explosions heard near PM's residence

The sound of two explosions in the area of the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem's Rehavia neighborhood last night put security forces on full alert, even though the noise turned out to have come from Purim firecrackers. The house was sealed off, and security forces and ambulances were sent there while the area was being checked. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was at home at the time. Police sappers examined the vicinity and pronounced it safe. *Liat Collins*

UK's Cook predicts difficult Middle East trip

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook admitted yesterday he would find it hard to make progress next week on a tour of the Middle East designed to help unblock the peace process. Cook's March 15-18 trip will take him to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Palestinian self-rule territories, Syria and Lebanon. "I am by no means complacent about the problem. I do not hold out any facile hopes of easy progress," he told a London news conference. "But I believe that if the international community does apply intensive diplomatic pressure, then we will be able to get the peace process moving again." *Reuters*

Tel Aviv woman killed while jaywalking

Golda Greenberg, 71, of Tel Aviv, died yesterday, several hours after she was hit by a car while attempting to cross Rehov Yitzhak Sadeh in Tel Aviv. She had been trying to cross in the middle of the street, not at a crosswalk, when she was hit by a car driven by a 73-year-old man. She was taken to Ichilov Hospital. *Itim*

Druse allowed to drive through nature reserve

The Nature Reserves Authority and the Beit Jann municipal council last night signed an agreement allowing the Druse to use a road that runs through the Mt. Meron nature reserve. The agreement would enable the Druse to reach a memorial to victims of last year's helicopter crash in She'ar Yashuv in which 73 soldiers died. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Chile's Pinochet becomes senator-for-life

Lawmakers displayed pictures of dissidents killed under Gen. Augusto Pinochet's regime and police used tear gas to disperse protesters as the former army commander assumed a new job yesterday: senator-for-life. Pinochet, after he was sworn in, cast his first vote in his new job as someone shouted "Assassin!" from the Senate stands. Pinochet appeared unmoved, his arms crossed and occasionally smiling, even as he saw lawmakers from the ruling coalition enter the Senate floor carrying the black-and-white photographs of slain dissidents. More than 3,000 people were killed for political reasons during Pinochet's 1973-90 rule. *AP*

Call to prosecute author of booklet praising Goldstein

By ELLI WOHLGELER

A new publication praising Baruch Goldstein, the doctor who massacred 29 Moslem worshippers in the Machpela Cave on the eve of Purim 1994, was distributed yesterday in the territories, raising a voice of protest by Meretz members and left-wing activists. The 56-page booklet, entitled "Baruch, the Redeemer and Savior" and written by Michael Ben-Horin, said Goldstein was a savior because he prevented attacks by Arabs. It contains several pictures of Goldstein, including one with the caption, "Dr. Baruch Goldstein, may God avenge his blood." Goldstein was beaten to death by survivors of the submarine gun attack inside the Machpela Cave. Ben-Horin was the editor of a 1995 book on Goldstein called *Baruch Hagever*, which can be translated "Baruch the Man," but is a take-off on a verse from Psalms that reads, "Blessed is the man [Baruch Hagever] who trusts in God." The book was ruled to be racist by a Jerusalem court, and Ben-Horin is appealing an eight-month prison sentence in connection with it. Meretz MK Ran Cohen demanded that police and the attorney-general investigate whether Ben-Horin and the publisher should be prosecuted for the new pamphlet. Its publication now, according to Ben-Horin, was over a bid in the Knesset to move Goldstein's grave, which has become a shrine of worship at its site in Kiryat Arba next door to Hebron. Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Yaari said her organization is submitting that Ben-Horin be tried for incitement. "We're demanding that he be put in prison - he should have been put there before for the last book," she said.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our dear

LESLIE GOLD

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, March 12, 1998, at 11:30 a.m., at Ra'anana Cemetery. We shall meet at the home of the deceased, 11 Rehov Hapitria, Ra'anana, at 11:00 a.m.

Mourners

Wife: Sandra
Children: Aviva, Adam and Avital
Grandchildren: Adi, Noy, Shani, Gal, Ili and Shai
His colleagues at S.G.M. Computers

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Life as usual at Tarkumiya roadblock

By AREH O'SULLIVAN

Twenty-four hours after the fatal shooting of three Palestinians by IDF soldiers, life at the Tarkumiya roadblock went on as usual. At dusk yesterday, cars and vans returning Palestinian laborers to the West Bank drove by slowly, real slowly. The white Ford van, riddled with bullets, was still pressed up against the cement blocks around the guards' hut.

Paratroopers in red berets manning the crossing moved the barricades around the van and kept traf-

fic moving as military investigators and Israel Police forensics personnel combed the vehicle for evidence.

Each of the 24 bullet holes was circled in red. Pita bread and falafel balls spilled onto the floor and the blood-stained ground. Soldiers, members of the crack 101st Paratrooper battalion were reluctant to talk, as they were ordered to remain silent about the incident. But at least one company member voiced displeasure over the detention of two fellow paratroopers for doing what he said they were trained to do.

"It's real chutzpa," the tall paratrooper said. "But it shows what kind of army we have. For better or for worse."

Guarding a roadblock is no easy task. The rule book doesn't always fit the circumstances, and Tuesday's shooting showed how split-second reactions could ignite a wave of violence.

"There is no trigger happiness here," said OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan after questioning soldiers about the incident. "It turns out that the soldiers at the roadblock saw a vehicle trying to run

down their commander and they opened fire according to procedure." The commander was only bumped and he was back on duty yesterday, with a slight limp, and was debriefed by a stream of top IDF commanders and Minister of Defense Yitzhak Mordechai, who visited the site.

According to Col. (res.) Moshe Elad, a former liaison to the Palestinian Authority, soldiers at the checkpoints like the one at Tarkumiya need to be ready to thwart an attack at any moment. "I know that this type of contact

is very unique. It is not a border crossing like between France and Switzerland. On the other hand the IDF doesn't define it as a security zone," Elad told Israel Radio.

"We have a contact point here where there is constant readiness, and warning that there may be an attempt to run you down," Elad said.

There is also room for confusion. Palestinian drivers don't always understand the hand signals of soldiers, or at least take out as if they don't understand them. The colonel added that the "open fire instructions can never cover all the scenarios."

Hebron's protesters say they will launch new intifada

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NABIB

Palestinian activists on the streets of Hebron warned of a new intifada yesterday. "Last time it started with a car accident in Gaza, this time it started in Tarkumiya," youths said amid the dozens of firebomb and stone-throwing protests that erupted throughout the area.

Palestinian youths also stoned soldiers on the outskirts of Dura, and in nearby El Fawar refugee camp, in angry outbursts that came as the three men killed at the Tarkumiya roadblock were buried.

The invisible dividing line between the Palestinian and Israeli controlled sector of Hebron was littered with stones, building blocks, metal rods, smashed bottles and the smoldering remains of firebombs and rags dipped in glue and set on fire.

Reporters could see lots of rubber bullets being fired down the two main streets of the casbah. Two teenagers were seen being hit and were quickly dragged away by friends.

Palestinian sources said up to 34 people were injured by rubber bullets. At least one border policeman was also hurt.

IDF Hebron Commander Lt.-Col. Yigal Sharon said that rioting on Tuesday night and yesterday occurred mainly in the casbah area. During his briefing a soldier yelled out: "Look out! A firebomb!" He crouched and aimed his rifle in the direction of the Palestinian youth who threw it and cocked his rifle, but never opened fire.



Soldiers take cover behind a boulder as firebombs smolder nearby on a Hebron street yesterday.

(Bryan McBurney)

Snipers were spotted on rooftops, calling out to the soldiers below.

A barrage of stones hit the ground near the troops, but a soldier called out to his peers to withhold fire, since just then a group of Palestinian schoolchildren was coming up the road.

Palestinian youths held up pieces of mirrors and tilted them

to catch the rays of the sun and flash them towards the faces of the soldiers.

A man named Ali, 35, remarked: "This is not peace. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is stubborn and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is weak. This is the beginning of a new intifada."

In Dura, thousands attended the

burial of Tuesday's victims: Ghaleb Rajoub, 34, a father of five and a cousin of West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub; Mohammed Sheeda Sharowna, 28, and a father of three, and Adnan Jibril Abu Zaid, 35, a father of nine. Their bodies, draped in Palestinian flags were laid to rest in the village cemetery, on Peace and Coexistence Street. Mourners

called out for Izzadin Kassam to take revenge. Another slogan went: "Beware, Netanyahu's blood leads to more blood, wait."

Villager Khaled Amayra, 41, alleged that the Tarkumiya shootings were planned, "and we blame the PA, who chooses to settle for condolence messages from Netanyahu and neglects the security of the Palestinian people."

Tarkumiya incident raises tension

ANALYSIS

By HEMACHEN KLEIN

Tuesday's incident at the Tarkumiya roadblock occurred amid a serious debate between Fatah and Palestinian Authority institutions.

There have been calls recently within Fatah for a renewal of mass demonstrations, with limited violence, to push forward the political process. According to this view, the political process won't move forward without protests expressing the frustration of the masses and demonstrating the danger of freezing negotiations between Israel and the PA.

The Fatah and PA leadership are trying to restrain this call, cool a heated atmosphere and convince the rank and file to wait and see and give diplomacy another chance. Leaders had pinned hopes for renewing the peace process on the US formally proposing ideas for further redeployment. However, the Clinton administration decided not to do so, prefer-

ring to step back from Palestinian-Israeli affairs for the moment.

The average Palestinian feels deep despair and is frustrated by Israel's approach to the Palestinian problem. Therefore, an incident like that in Tarkumiya could escalate into mass demonstrations, as witnessed yesterday, and lead to some version of a renewed intifada. It also could encourage Hamas to carry out terror attacks.

Hamas's main rationale would be to satisfy the public. Will Palestinians justify and understand such an attack, and place the blame on Israel, or will they blame Hamas, and hold it responsible for measures that Israel takes against Palestinians in response? The Hamas leadership

is trying to gauge whether the Palestinian public is giving it a green light for a terror attack. Hamas also needs to detect whether the level of frustration and despair is high enough for the PA and its security services to resist taking any action against Hamas if it carries out an attack.

The debate in Fatah and the PA about whether to encourage unrest as a means of prodding the political process also tends to be taken as a green light by Hamas leaders. For example, a terror attack carried out at the Apropa cafe in Tel Aviv a year ago, followed a debate inside the PA and public frustration over Israeli construction on Har Homa. The shooting near Tarkumiya may lead Hamas or the Palestinian masses to confrontation with Israel security services to demonstrate that they have lost all hope in the political process.

The writer is a political scientist at Bar-Ilan University.

'PA official violating Oslo'

By ELLI WOHLGELER

A member of the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Waqf and Religious Affairs is acting as the PA's liaison to the Christian churches in Jerusalem and making a mockery of Israeli sovereignty in the city, according to a Ministry of Internal Security report.

Ibrahim Qandalaft, a lawyer who lives in the Old City, is a deputy minister in charge of church affairs for the PA ministry. According to the report, Qandalaft acts in violation of the Oslo Accords by representing the PA at many church functions in Jerusalem, including official ceremonies, receptions, and religious processions.

"As long as he continues to officially represent the PA at these ceremonies, his presence symbolizes Israel's acquiescence to shared or joint sovereignty over the Palestinian Authority over Christian holy sites in Jerusalem," the report states.

Qandalaft organizes meetings between heads of churches and

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and other senior Palestinian officials, and escorts the heads of the churches to these meetings, which also take place in Gaza, Judea, and Samaria, according to the report.

In the religious processions, according to the report which was presented to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday, Qandalaft marches together with four foreign consuls in Jerusalem: the French, Belgian, Italian, and Spanish.

Sheikh Hassan Tabboub, minister of Waqf and Religious Affairs, said he cannot understand why there is any objection to Qandalaft, and what were the violations of Oslo.

"He is the adviser for Christian affairs for the ministry," Tabboub said. "He is a Jerusalemite, he works in Jerusalem, and he was born in Jerusalem. He is doing nothing wrong, and everything right. Why should he be forbidden from the authority? Why does the government interfere with religious affairs?"

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Arutz 7 may get permit

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

The police had planned last August to close down Arutz 7, the settlers' pirate radio station, but refrained from doing so at the advice of the head of the General Security Service, according to Knesset State Control Committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor).

GSS head Ami Ayalon said that closing down the station would lead to widespread and even violent disturbances by settlers, Katz said. A planned police raid on the station was therefore dropped, Katz told the committee yesterday.

Ayalon expressed his opinion at the time in a letter to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, Katz said.

Meanwhile, there is a plan to give the station legal status by an

order of the OC Central Command, Katz said. He called on Rubinstein to prevent such a move. At the same time, Arutz 7 has government support and is funded by advertisers who include government bodies, he said.

"There were no threats of violence on the part of the settlers," Communications Minister Limor Livnat said later in an interview on Israel Radio. It was the assessment of the GSS that there could be, she said. Steps are being taken to arrange a permit for the radio station, she said, and it would be subject to the same rules as other stations which operate according to the law.

Livnat said the accusations showed "hypocrisy on the part of left-wing MKs." They had not objected to Abie Nathan's Voice of Peace, which operated as a

pirate station for 15 years, but were constantly attacking the settlers' radio station which, she said, is vital to communications between them.

"If a miracle occurs and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signs the next phase of withdrawal, the radio is likely to incite against him. His life could be endangered," Katz said. He said the pirate stations are getting state funds but not paying fees like the regional radio stations. "There are 150 pirate stations in the country now," he said, calling on public figures to refrain from being interviewed by them.

Rubinstein's assistant, Noam Solberg, said the attorney-general had known about the GSS head's opinion regarding Arutz 7, but that he was not permitted to relate to it publicly.



Greeting Albanian PM

Albanian Prime Minister Fatos Nano (right) is welcomed to the Knesset by Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday. Nano also met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who thanked him for his country's decision to open an embassy here. (Isaac Harari)

Livnat wants 'Tekuma' off the air

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, yesterday called on Channel 1 to stop broadcasting its prestigious series *Tekuma*, claiming it distorts Zionism and damages the national image.

Her call came shortly after Yehoram Gaon's decision to stop introducing each chapter of the series. He said he does not agree with its content.

The series, which was to survey the resurrection of the nation of Israel after 2,000 years in exile... presents the Palestinian side in a sympathetic way, systematically distorts the great Zionist enterprise, and causes much damage to our image in our own eyes and in those of the world," Livnat wrote to Prof. Rina Shapira, chairwoman of the Israel Broadcasting Authority executive.

Livnat stated that the public broadcasting channel is not supposed to present "the propaganda stand of the Palestinians, while pushing all our myths into the corner." She said that self-criticism as it is interpreted in the series is destructive.

She said that the program is funded by the citizens, "including those who feel shame and sorrow watching the series, but are forced to finance it with their television fees."

She noted that she understands the following chapters are even more radical than those broadcast so far, "and have even led to Gaon's resignation." She called on Shapira to stop broadcasting the series immediately, pending a thorough, objective, and professional examination.

In his letter of resignation, Gaon

pointed to the chapter "Biladi, Biladi," which is due to be broadcast in about four weeks, as his main reason. Gaon protested against "glorifying the role of the terrorists" and said he refused to be identified with it.

The chapter attempts to present the Palestinian view of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and is considered one of the most delicate parts of the series.

Israel Television director Yair Stern said that "the chapter 'Biladi Biladi' is perfectly all right and will be broadcast as scheduled. The series isn't a Jewish Agency movie portraying only the attractive parts of Israel. The series includes criticism and controversial issues, which could be unpleasant. It's not like movies which could have been made in Russia, we thought these things had to be shown."

As for Gaon's resignation, Stern said it was a mutual decision as Gaon had burned himself out "and we decided it was time to stop working together for the benefit of both sides and part as friends."

Stern refused to comment on Livnat's letter, noting: "I don't argue with politicians via the media. Every person is entitled to his own opinion of the series."

He said the IBA has received a lot of reactions to the series, which enjoys a high rating, and thousands of requests for video cassettes of all the chapters. "We get complaints as well, mostly about not mentioning some event or other, or not giving it sufficient prominence," he said.

Until now, he added, there have been complaints from Arab viewers who regarded the last chapter, about the history of Israel's Arabs,

as too "tepid, parve. We thought it was appropriate to relate the history of Israel's Arabs as well, since there's a million Arabs here, 20 percent of the population."

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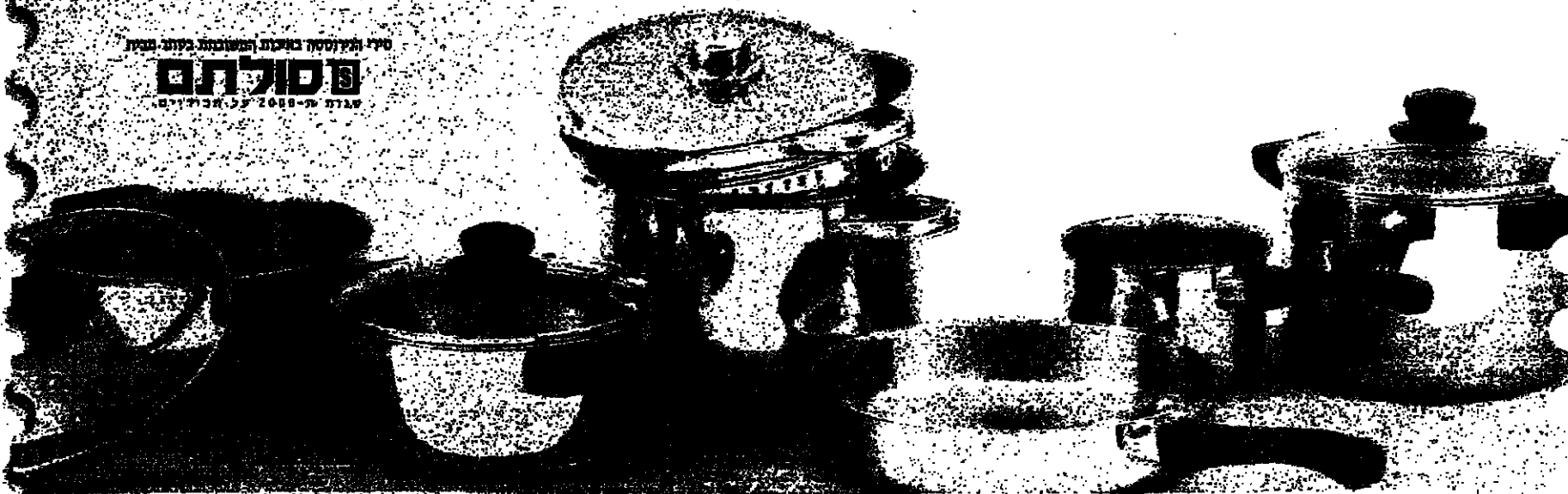
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HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Territories under fire

The fatal shooting on Tuesday evening of three Palestinian laborers at the Tarkumiya roadblock was a result of accumulating tensions in the territories, according to Hebrew press commentators.

"The fatal accident... is one of the tragic events that we and the Palestinians are lead to because of our incapability of reaching a reasonable political arrangement," writes *Yediot Aharonot's* Ron Ben-Yisai. He adds that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will probably want to restrain the unrest and that the IDF should help him.

Ma'ariv's Yoav Limor states that the reason the Palestinian van swerved off the road is irrelevant and that what is most important are "the results... the timing and the location, all of which are matters of great concern."

"This event will turn into a going weapon against Israel and a lever for political pressure," writes *Yediot's* Roni Shaked.

Stirring the storm

The reaction of Hamas attack suspect, Iman Mahmud Kafishe, to Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak's comment in a TV interview that if he were a Palestinian he would join a terrorist organization, pushed the issue to the top of the agenda and provoked some strong criticism from the Likud.

Yediot's Nahum Barnes says that Barak's comment was only a lapse by a usually rationale man. "His problem is that this slip of the tongue and others will return and stick to him when [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's Finkelstein opens a massive personality mud-slinging campaign against him."

Dov Tamari claims in *Ma'ariv* that the shock of terrorist acts keeps the public from dealing with the roots and motives behind the attacks. Any public discussion about the latter is wrongly looked upon as legitimizing terror. He adds that Barak had attempted to explain the phenomenon, "but has encountered a shallowness that we have grown accustomed to."

Elyakim Haetzni protests in *Yediot* against Barak's comparison of the pre-state struggle for a country with Palestinian terrorism. "A fighter who 'understands' the enemy, his defeat against the less 'enlightened' enemy is a sure thing," adding, "God forbid that we ever have Hamlet as a leader."

Minister's threat

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani's speech to top police officials in a ceremony marking the appointment of a new investigations chief, "made the impression that Kahalani threatened he police officials that they will get into trouble if they pry too much into the affairs of politicians," writes *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid. He adds that such a threat "arouses suspicion that he [Kahalani] has something to hide."

According to *Ha'aretz's* Hanna Kim, Kahalani probably does have something to conceal. She says that police opened a file against Kahalani two years ago on suspicion that he was involved in ordering a wiretap — a file that is still considered open. Kim also notes allegations of misconduct against the minister for intervening in investigations. She also questions some of his appointments in the police force.

Yediot's Mordechai Gilat states that Kahalani's tone was such that "even a beginning investigator, even if not born in Sicily, would understand [the implications]."

Award worthy

MK Zvi Hendel's demand to prevent author Amos Oz from receiving the Israel Prize for his literary work due to an article published by Oz condemning the settlers, has stirred controversy.

Ma'ariv's Amnon Dankner thinks that Oz's political stance is irrelevant because the award is for literary work. "What Hendel and his friends are doing is placing the public it represents outside of the culture and Hebrew literary lovers' camp."

Enigma Alon says in *Yediot* that no separation between literary work and opinion is necessary.

Heated debate continues over Barak comment

By LIAT COLLINS

The comment on television over the weekend by Labor Party leader Ehud Barak — that had he been born a Palestinian he would have probably joined a terror organization — continued to provoke heated discussion in the Knesset yesterday. At the end of acrimonious debate on several urgent motions, MKs from all parties decided there was no need for further discussion. Early on, the potentially explosive topic forced Speaker Dan Tichon to call for a break to allow MKs to cool down, after MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) caused an uproar with his statement: "According to Barak's twisted logic, it's interesting what Barak would have told the interviewer had he been asked what he would have done had he been born to German parents during World War II."

Tichon said Kleiner's words would be struck from the minutes. Kleiner also said he "would not be surprised if Barak, as a potential heir to the [premiership] and as a former chief of general staff, finds himself as the chief marketing factor in the recruitment commercials of Hamas, and the terrorist murder of innocents."

The storm broke out again when MK Hagai Merom (Labor) called out to the Likud: "You have the culture of terrorists within a democracy." During the mutual heckling, MK Avi Yehzekel was expelled from the plenum.

Barak sat stony-faced for most

of the discussion before taking to the podium with a speech stressing his military career and contribution to fighting terror, "in a white overall on the wing of the Sabena plane, when it could have exploded any minute; after midnight on the streets of Beirut dressed as a woman; in the planning team of the Entebbe Operation."

He repeatedly stated that the war on terror is by actions, not words. "For 35 years I risked my life in scores of actions: deeds not words," he said.

Barak placed the blame for encouraging terror on the government, for releasing Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin without a guarantee he would not return to terror and allowing Musa Abu Marzook to be sent to Jordan. "A person who does not recognize the factors which motivate his enemies cannot effectively fight terror," Barak said.

Answering on behalf of the government, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said Labor had created the Likud's next election campaign slogan: "With Barak we'll win!" Shalom said he had been waiting for three days for Barak to apologize and admit he had made a mistake and put an end to the episode. "Instead Barak hides behind his words and adds to them an attack on the Likud and its leader. Was it they who said these words?" Shalom asked.

He quoted a poll that 90 percent of the public is convinced Barak had made a mistake and said

Barak's words had shown a serious defect in someone who is a candidate for prime minister. Shalom said Barak had legitimized terror by his statement at a time when Israel is stressing the need for a change in the attitude of the Palestinian leadership against violence and praise for terrorists.

Throughout the discussion MKs traded insults, with Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) telling Barak: "You are the copywriter of the terror organizations." Micha Goldman (Labor) responded: "You are the duty idiot for the Likud." When MK Ori Orr (Labor), a former major-general, told Blumenthal she knew nothing about fighting terror, she replied by calling him a chauvinist.

It was Shas leader Aryeh Deri who put an end to the episode by telling his colleagues that: "Anyone who tries to make out that Barak is a recruitment officer for Hamas is either playing a Purim prank or out of their mind. He is being wronged. Enough of this."

A few minutes later, the Knesset began another debate on the comments by former chief of IDF Intelligence Chief Shlomo Gazit, who last week compared the kipot of religious soldiers to the swastikas worn by Nazi soldiers. But the Knesset had apparently had enough of talk of Germans and social and political divides. The debate was brought to an abrupt halt to allow the second and third readings of a bill to pass before the House adjourned for Purim.



Running for mayor

Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek (right) declares his support for Shimon Shetreet (left), who formally announced his candidacy for mayor of the capital at a news conference yesterday. Running as head of Kollek's One Jerusalem Party, Shetreet said he is negotiating with the Labor Party and The Third Way to form a joint list for city council.

(Text: Elit Wohlgelegen; photo: Bryan McBurney)

Air force tests new cargo plane

By AREH O'SULLIVAN

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu took a test flight in Lockheed Martin's new C-130J cargo plane yesterday.

Transport aircraft to replace its aging fleet are high on the IAF's wish list. And at \$50 million a plane, the C-130J will likely remain a wish. Still, Lockheed Martin made Israel a stop on the plane's world tour. Top air force officers converged at the air base in Lod to inspect the craft. Ben-Eliahu piloted it in a test run.

Most of the IAF's C-130s were provided by the United States during the Yom Kippur War. The C-130J is a new generation of the multi-purpose aircraft which serves as the backbone of

Israel's airborne cargo capabilities.

The new C-130J can be flown by just a pilot and co-pilot, unlike the older versions which also had a navigator and flight engineer.

"There is no doubt that an aircraft like this can improve the capabilities of the IAF," Col. Shmuel, cargo squadron commander, was quoted as saying in the latest edition of *Air Force* magazine. "Some of our C-130s are very old, some even flew in the Vietnam war."

"Despite all of the upgrades, they still don't reach the level of the C-130J."

He said the C-130J is faster, can carry more fuel, and has a longer range. Israel has 25 C-130s, three configured as tankers, according to *The Middle East Balance* put out by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Court: Mentally ill cannot be forced into hospital

By BAT-SHEVA TSURI and Haim

Mentally ill people can be hospitalized at the order of a district psychiatrist only if they pose a danger to themselves or their surroundings, the Supreme Court said in a precedent-setting ruling yesterday.

The court thus overturned a district psychiatrist's order to forcibly hospitalize a woman who had refused to receive medication for her condition.

The ruling, handed down by Court President Aharon Barak, pointed out that the aim of psychiatric treatment is to help the patient, and not to "tear him away from the rest of society. The patient's freedom must be respected, he said, provided he poses no threat."

The woman whose case came up yesterday had been charged with attacking her daughter. According to a psychiatric evaluation, she is suffering from paranoia, is not responsible for her actions, and is not capable of standing trial. She

should be treated at a clinic, since she is not dangerous, the evaluation concluded.

The woman began treatment, but when she stopped taking her medication, her doctor informed the district psychiatrist. The psychiatrist explained to her the need for medication, but she still refused. The psychiatrist then ordered her hospitalized.

The woman's lawyer appealed to the court to cancel the order, saying it had been shown she was not dangerous to herself or others.

"Society's goal is not to rid itself of the mentally ill, but to treat them," Barak wrote in his ruling. "There is no need to interfere with the freedom of such a patient beyond ensuring that he is protected, receiving treatment and not endangering public safety."

It is not necessary to hospitalize the patient in a mental hospital or to force medication upon him unless there is such a danger, Barak said in his summation.

Peres visits Sacha Elterman in hospital hours before her release

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Families of the athletes killed or injured in the Maccabiah bridge disaster last July asked former prime minister Shimon Peres to support their demand for an independent Knesset investigation.

Two umbrella organizations of Australian Jewry have written Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon asking for such a probe.

Peres visited Sacha Elterman, a 16-year-old tennis player, on Tuesday, shortly before she was released from a Sydney hospital where she was recovering from injuries sustained in the bridge collapse at the opening of the Maccabiah games.

Victims' families thanked Peres for finding time to meet with them, and were struck by his concern for Elterman's condition. They noted that Peres's visit was

another step in the Israeli public's ongoing support.

The Elterman family said that Israeli support has been vital in helping Sacha's continuing fight to regain her health. Last month she had a fungal abscess removed from her brain.

Elterman was able to spend Tuesday night at home after being released from the hospital, until she is required to return for further treatment.

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NEWS

in brief

A military tribunal yesterday reprimanded Lt.-Col. David Ohana for negligence in the death of St.-Sgt. Yanai Shoshan, a Givati soldier killed when a fragmentation grenade went off in his webbing during training. Ohana was brigade commander at the time of the February 14, 1994 incident. The judge, Col. Moshe Ginot, found that Ohana had failed to ensure that the grenade was correctly placed in the soldier's vest before the exercise.

The Religious Affairs Ministry yesterday called for being given authority over the Machpeila Cave in Hebron, instead of having it run by the Defense Ministry. Asher Ohana, director-general of the Religious Affairs Ministry, said he noted faulty upkeep of the site and heard many complaints about prayer schedules during a recent visit. Ohana promised to find money to repair the building's facade and to provide religious articles for Jewish pilgrims. *Haim Shapiro*

A 30-year-old Bnei Brak resident was convicted in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday of rape and sodomy of his niece over a ten year period, from the time she was eight years old. The young woman said that the man had threatened to kill her if she complained. After she filed a complaint with police, she was distanced from her harardi community. In the 86 page verdict, Judge Dvora Berliner said the conviction is almost entirely based on the woman's "accurate and faithful" testimony. She said that the suspect had admitted to having sex with the girl, but claimed it was with her consent.

Galit Lipitz Beck

There is an inherent flaw in the structure of the Antiquities Authority since it is the statutory body which authorizes and supervises archeological digs and at the same time competes with other bodies in digging, members of the Knesset State Control Committee said yesterday. They were discussing a proposal by MK Moshe Gafni that limits be imposed on the authority's powers and greater public supervision be enforced since there is "a conflict of interests." In a 1995 report, the State Comptroller had exposed many of the irregularities.

A committee charged with finding ways to increase organ donation in the Arab sector met yesterday for the first time at the initiative of the Health Ministry. Among its members are, MK Azmi Bashara (Hadash), who received a kidney transplant last year. The committee plans to prepare a campaign to stress the importance of organ donations, which is to include lectures in schools, hospitals and youth clubs and the Arab-speaking media.

The US Embassy in Egypt on Tuesday criticized an Egyptian magazine that published a photo-montage depicting American Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer as a haredi Jew. The montage was a "totally unwarranted and insulting picture," embassy press attache Rick Roberts said. The government-owned weekly *Rose el-Youssef* ran the montage on its cover and across an inside page, where it bore a caption describing Kurtzer as "a secret rabbi in diplomatic clothing." In Washington, State Department spokesman James Foley called the cartoon an "outrageous characterization... [It] is something that not only the United States finds abhorrent but, we would assume, that our friends in Egypt find abhorrent." AP

Some 4,500 development town youngsters from the North and South will be brought in to Tel Aviv to attend today's *advodna* and Purim parade. The Union of Local Authorities in Israel and the organization arranging 50th anniversary celebrations is bringing the youngsters from such places as Kiryat Gat, Ma'ale Adumim and Kiryat Shmona, to improve links between Tel Aviv and the outlying towns and to help bridge the nation's social gaps. After the parade, the kids will be taken to a local amusement park, Rishon LeZion Superland, and to the Ramat Gan Safari.

Arweh Dean Cohen

A police chief yesterday called for officers to be given more leeway than the law currently allows in dealing with violent husbands or those who threaten their spouses. Asst.-Cmdr. Yitzhak Gisis, head of the Zevulun police district that includes Haifa's bay-side suburbs, said the hands of the police are tied by regulations in certain circumstances.

His comments followed the murder on Tuesday of Revital Amzaleg, 23, who was stabbed to death by her estranged husband at her parents' home in Kiryat Motzkin. Revital, mother of a baby daughter, was buried yesterday.

Her husband, Shimon, 24, was remanded yesterday for five days

Yigal Axielrod was convicted yesterday by Tel Aviv District Court of raping and murdering Tamar Brez on the top floor of a Ramat Gan furniture store last September.

Axielrod, 25, who worked in Beitlil's outdoor furniture department, grabbed Brez from behind, raped her, and then stabbed her to death. He hid her body in a remote corner of the floor and then went to the furniture department to inquire about chair prices. Her body was found several weeks later by city inspectors, after store employees complained of a bad smell.

Amizaleg admitted in court that he had killed his wife, but denied he had intended to murder her. He maintained that there had been an argument and his mother-in-law had pushed him.

He claimed that Revital, who was stabbed with a pocketknife, was hurt during the course of the argument and struggle. Amzaleg fled the scene and was later found hiding at his sister's home, where he was arrested.

The police representative at the remand hearing maintained Amzaleg might try to harm others if released and asked for a remand of 15 days. Amzaleg's lawyer, who was appointed during the hearing, noted that his client had given a full account of the incident.

The couple had been married for two years, but split some eight months ago; Amzaieg lived with his parents in Haifa and his wife at the home of her parents in Kiryat Motzkin. They were in the middle of divorce proceedings and selling their home, and Revital had complained that Shimon had sold some of their joint property without her permission to pay for his drug addiction.

The family had maintained that the murder could have been prevented if police had acted properly after Revital filed a complaint that Amzaleg had threatened to kill her — even though she later dropped it.

Gisis stressed that the police had acted in accordance with the law and regulations governing domestic violence cases. The husband had been

questioned and warned, despite the fact the case had been closed.

Two other complaints submitted by the victim to police related to joint property, but not to acts of violence or threats by her estranged husband.

Gisis stressed that the police had acted properly and in accordance with the law and that there was no more they could have done.

"In my opinion police officers should be given greater authority to distance violent or threatening husbands from the homes of their wives," said Gisis. He stressed that wives who lodged complaints against their husbands sometimes changed their minds afterwards for a variety of reasons - their family and home life, love, and threats. The law, however, only allows

action. In addition to the ITWN, ICAR includes such groups as Emunah, WIZO, Hadassah, B'nai B'rith Women and Na'amat.

The Haifa District Court decided yesterday to maintain a restraining order barring further construction of an amusement park in Nahariya, because the site is above a buried asbestos dump. However, the court postponed a decision about whether to leave the site as is or to continue with an approved asbestos removal project, according to attorney Adam Fisch, who represents a Nahariya citizens organization which has sued the municipality the Environment and Interior ministries, along with four environmental groups.

"We are fighting for our lives and the lives of our children," says Orit Reich, the group's chairwoman, "and feel that we have been shouting into the wind. In our opinion and the opinions of experts we have sought, the project has been mismanaged and dangerously handled from the beginning. The organization has hired Yitzhak Fischer, a certified industrial hygienist who recently immigrated from Baltimore, Maryland, to make an evaluation.

Fischer has found that samples collected and tested from the site were positive for crocidolite and chrysotile asbestos. Crocidolite is considered to be the most dangerous form of asbestos. There is no safe level for asbestos exposure. Fischer said that late education minister Ze'evulun Hammer "died of an asbestos-related cancer even though he never worked at an asbestos site."

"There is no immediate reaction to asbestos contamination," Fischer said. "Each fiber flying through the air is like a bullet. You are a lot safer with fewer bullets."

Nahariya's Mayor Jackie Sabag has said that he planned to open the amusement park by summer.

Some 200 homosexual minors in the Tel Aviv area alone are involved in prostitution, MK Yael Dayan (Labor) yesterday told the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, which she chairs.

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) said the youths faced life-threatening dangers and called for setting up a hostel for them.

"Homosexual minors are forced

to leave their homes as they mature because of their emerging sexual identity. As a result, they find themselves in severe economic distress and from there the road to prostitution is a short one," said Dayan.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, the Internal Security Ministry and nonprofit groups dealing with the homeless and homosexual rights. Committee members were told

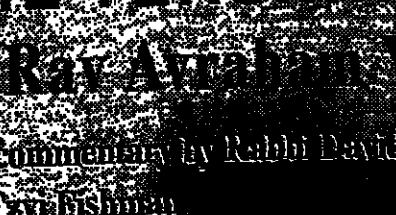
that some of the male prostitutes dressed as women.

"Since the committee was told that a third of the homosexuals in Israel dealing with prostitution are immigrants from the former Soviet Union because of economic reasons and because in the Soviet Union homosexuality is considered illegal, this problem must be quickly dealt with," said Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliva).

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"If the conclusions from Luxembourg are not respected, we have to consider the consequences," Colonna said. "One would have to ask how useful they are."

Along with Cyprus, the EU was due to start membership talks with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia at the end of this month.

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Crisis afterthoughts

Talk is usually cheap. But Arab world, threatening to ruin existing states and governments, wasting their resources and opening them to dangerous internal disorder.

The Region



Barry Rubin

The recent, irrational, national panic about an Iraqi attack revealed a dangerous concept underlying the debate on the peace process. The causes are both partisan and historical.

By depicting the Arab world as fanatically and suicidally eager to destroy Israel, the Right portrays peace as impossible. Any concessions would make Israel weaker in fighting an inevitable, unending battle.

But the Left employs parallel reasoning. The previous government sometimes claimed that failure to reach peace with Syria would bring about a Syrian attack. Now the opposition claims Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies are so bad that they are leading us to war with Arab countries.

All these assertions are inaccurate and do a disservice to Israel's people. For the Left, this approach also boomerangs. After all, if war is so close, a position of strength seems safer than concessions, diplomacy, or agreements written on paper.

While outsiders find this attitude baffling — or even disingenuous — its origins are easily understood. Jews are not used to any type of victory beyond mere self-preservation, especially since antisemitism doesn't disappear. Experience has taught that even friendly neighbors might pull out the knives.

As for Israel itself, a half-century of conflict with the Arab world, a half-dozen wars, and continuing statements from Arab leaders and intellectuals — not to mention from extremists and terrorist groups — makes for a natural pessimism and skepticism.

Yet it makes far more sense to suggest that Israel has largely won the Arab-Israeli conflict. The radicals — including Hamas, Hizbullah, Iran and Iraq — are fighting a rearguard action against the inevitable. Most of the Arab world is ready to end the battle with Israel in practice; much of it is ready for formal peace.

Whatever its shortcomings, the Palestinian leadership and Yasser Arafat have made a historic change of ideology and tactics. For them, the Oslo agreement meant a very painful change: from seeking to gain all the land by conquest to trying to obtain the smaller part of it by negotiation and mutual compromise.

Why did this happen? Important factors include evolving global and regional politics. But fundamental to this situation was the decades-long lesson that Israel could not be destroyed and that trying to do so was wrecking the

Arab world, threatening to ruin existing states and governments, wasting their resources and opening them to dangerous internal disorder.

Israelis should not see as mere propaganda the fact that most Arabs perceive Israel as frighteningly powerful, an idea which has become an important factor in the Arab states' foreign policies. Such an assessment does not create love and may increase hostile rhetoric — for example, that's where anti-Americanism comes from — but does make for respect and a desire to avoid humiliating, costly defeats.

Along with historical experience, Israel's continuing military edge, deterrence (including nuclear weapons), and alliance with the US (which the Arab side has been unable to erode after 30 years of effort in the far more favorable context of the Cold War) have moved Arab states away from any eagerness for war.

Divisions within the Arab world and Israel's ability to shift the balance of power by finding new partners (like Turkey and Jordan) reinforce this conclusion.

Sadly and ironically, the Arab world's inability and disinterest in fighting Israel can mean a preference for harsh words and terrorism. Rabid rhetoric disguises the absence of any real anti-Israel struggle, while sponsoring terrorism is a low-cost way of striking against Israel and subverting the peace process without any direct confrontation.

But it must be understood that the radicals view Arab peace with Israel as far more dangerous to themselves than continuing tension. If Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Hamas view an Israeli-Palestinian deal or Palestinian state as so favorable to themselves (and detrimental to Israel) why do they do everything possible to block such an outcome?

Obviously, Israel must be prepared for any attack. It's surely better if Iran or Iraq don't get nuclear bombs or longer-range missiles. But this doesn't mean they'll start firing at Israel as soon as they can. Rather, they're more likely to threaten or shoot at nearby Gulf Arab monarchies which cannot defend themselves, or each other. Besides, if radicals having such weapons is such a scary future, that also suggests it's better to reach a negotiated peace with closer neighbors before that happens.

At any rate, it's the height of foolishness to promote false war hysteria or fail to understand regional changes in Israel's favor which make peace a real alternative.

The writer is a senior resident scholar at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs.

Taliban's new and improved Islam

By KENNETH J. COOPER

DEOBAND, India — In the past century, an influential Islamic seminary in this northern Indian town has churned out more than 300,000 edicts based on Muslim law, covering matters ranging from the proper regulation of mosques to personal disputes between spouses.

Every month in recent years, six clerics at the Deoband seminary have promulgated 200 edicts, or fatwas, which carry the weight of religious law for millions of Muslims on the Indian subcontinent. But despite that voluminous production, the seminary's chief interpreter of Islamic law had never heard of several fatwas in effect in one part of the region.

Is there anything in Islam that forbids women from wearing white socks? "Nothing," said Mohammad Zafeeruddin, Deoband's chief mufti.

Must Muslims paint street-level windows in their homes black? "This is not according to Islamic law," he replied. "Whether it is black or any color depends on personal choice." Does Islam ban kite flying? "There is no harm as long as it does not disturb your daily prayers," said Zafeeruddin, looking more and more bemused by a foreign visitor's questions.

"Who is issuing these fatwas?" interjected Adil Siddiqui, a retired bureaucrat in charge of the seminary's public relations.

They were issued by the Taliban, a militant Islamic militia that has seized control of more than two-thirds of Afghanistan in the past four years. The Taliban, whose leaders have imposed what may be the world's most radical interpretation of Islam on areas under their control, trace the group's theological roots to the seminary here in predominantly Hindu India. Many members of the Taliban were schooled in Pakistani seminaries based on the Deoband model.

"Of course, the Deoband seminary is a source of inspiration and guidance for us," said Naim Jan, political adviser to Mohammad

Omar, the Taliban's leader. "For all of our teachers and scholars, the Deoband seminary is a theological source." But the Taliban has gone far beyond the multitudinous dictates of its theological source in zealously pursuing a stated goal of establishing a "100 percent Islamic government." Its leaders say their aim is to be purer even than the government of Saudi Arabia, which administers Islam's holiest shrines, imposes a similar brand of Islam and subsidizes the Taliban.

Iran, whose 1978 revolution focused Western attention on Islamic fundamentalism, has branded the Taliban's version "medieval." The Taliban has issued more than 60 edicts regulating aspects of daily life — down to permissible dress and diversions — and has enforced the orders with thrashings. Bans on girls attending schools and most women working outside the home have stirred international condemnation, causing all but three nations to withhold diplomatic recognition and prompting some aid organizations to curb operations in one of the world's poorest countries.

The word "Taliban" signifies religious students and refers to the militia's roots. Pakistani intelligence sources acknowledge that the nation's main spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, sent agents to Islamic seminaries in border areas of Pakistan to motivate Afghan refugees to create a militia in 1994 and plunge into Afghanistan's civil war.

Those sources said that the spy agency promoted the Taliban movement and then assigned military advisers to its fighting units with the knowledge of US officials, who did not object.

State Department officials distanced the US from the Taliban after its fighters seized Kabul, hanged Afghanistan's former communist ruler, Najibullah, and imposed restrictions on women.

The Taliban's propensity for violence distinguishes its version of Islam from that propagated by easygoing, smiling clerics at the



Demonstrators in Barcelona covered their bodies earlier this month to protest Taliban's discrimination of women.

Deoband seminary, about 600 miles southeast of Afghanistan.

On the seminary's neat, orderly campus, where 3,000 bearded students undergo from four to 12 years of Islamic education, the teachings sound decidedly similar to those followed by the Taliban.

For example, the seminary urges Muslim women to wear a loose garment that covers their bodies from head to toe. But a Hindu woman who toured the campus wearing jeans, with her head and face uncovered, encountered little hostility. Any woman on Kabul's streets in similar dress would risk being thrashed by religious police.

Likewise, Deoband clerics and the Taliban agree on separate schools and workplaces to "protect" females from unwanted male

attention. But the seminary has not gone as far as banning girls from school or women from work.

Rafiq Zakaria, an Islamic scholar in Bombay, India, said the principal difference between the school and the militia is that "what the Taliban are doing is taking these practices and these tenets and imposing them. Deobandis never imposed them." They have preached them," Jan, the adviser to the Taliban leader, said that difference is the legacy of the factional fighting that followed the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989 after a decade-long military occupation.

There has to be a difference between the students who grew up in war and those who were raised

in peace," he said. "In Afghanistan, the gun is a feature of daily life, while in India that's not the case." The seminary's representatives have expressed mixed feelings about the Taliban, at times dissociating themselves from their theological kin.

"We do not know what they preach, what they do," said Marghub-ur-Rahman, the seminary's rector. "We are not concerned with the Taliban at all." But Siddiqui, the public relations director, praised the Afghan militia for "following the teachings of Islam" although he did take exception to several edicts. "Both these schools [of Islam] are quite near to each other, and they have an affinity," he said.

(The Washington Post)

Political woes open doors to Japanese women

By LINDA SIEG

TOKYO — Scandals swirling in Japan's corridors of power are opening some doors long closed to women, as policy-makers seek to improve their battered image.

Last month, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto appointed economics professor Yoko Sazanami to head a panel charged with injecting public funds into Japan's bad loan-laden banks.

Just a few weeks later another female economist, labor specialist Eiko Shinotsuka, was tipped by media as one of four new members of an expanded Bank of Japan policy board to be set up as part of a mandate to boost the central bank's clout.

Two is hardly a tidal wave, but some women see it as part of a welcome trend.

"I think we are starting to escape from a situation in which women could not exercise their abilities simply because they were women," said Hatsuho

Yoshioka, head of the Housewives Federation of Japan.

The government in 1996 set a goal of boosting the role of women in the plethora of panels that advise ministries on policy, setting a goal of raising the share to 30 percent in 10 years. The figure was 17.4 percent as of last September, up from 15.5 percent in 1996, according to official data.

"This is not just lip service. They are taking steps and some progress has been made," said lawyer Etsuko Fujimoto.

Some professional women, however, worry that the government's goal in appointing females to such positions smacks more of an effort to improve its own sagging image than a real attempt at equal opportunity employment in top decision-making circles.

"These women are very, very capable scholars in their areas, but I think the government is more focused on its image," said a financial analyst who declined

to be identified.

Scandals over alleged bribetaking by Finance Ministry bureaucrats, and reports that central bank officials did the same have further blotted the reputations of policy-makers already under fire for a failure to steer the economy back to recovery.

Others lauded the effort to bring outsiders into the policy process, but stressed that those chosen should have relevant expertise.

"It is a good thing to bring in people who come from a different group with different concepts," said Fumiko Konya, senior economist at the Japan Securities Research Institute.

"But these are issues of financial policy so I think they should select people from the private financial sector," said Hiroko Mizuhara, head of the Consumers Federation of Japan, echoed that complaint. "Of course there are some members who speak on behalf of the public but many are there just to improve the panel's image," she said.

der — should be the key qualification.

She added, however, that the expertise in the economics of labor and households which Shinotsuka would bring to the BOJ board was a welcome addition to the central bank's policy debate.

"Households and firms have opposing interests, so it is important to bring in households' viewpoint," she said.

Equally, if not more important, critics say, is reform of a process in which advisory panels often rubber-stamp decisions already made by ministry bureaucrats.

"Advisory panels have been a sort of 'invisible cloak' for the ministries, and ministries use them to say what they want to do themselves," said Ota said.

Hiroko Mizuhara, head of the Consumers Federation of Japan, echoed that complaint. "Of course there are some members who speak on behalf of the public but many are there just to improve the panel's image," she said.

"I know many women who have been on such panels and in almost all cases their views were suppressed," she added.

The screening panel on public fund injections, meanwhile, took less than a week to decide criteria which analysts said were broad enough to allow most top banks to qualify.

"It was a kind of performance," Konya said. "To have a group of non-experts decide the criteria in two or three days is mocking the public," she said.

Saitama University's Ota said advisory panels should be set up directly under the prime minister rather than ministries, their debate made completely public and final reports written by committee members themselves rather than bureaucrats.

"There have been cases in which the views of independent members were not included at all in the final report," Ota said.

"That would change if the debate was made public."

(Reuters)

Saddam, the king needs the sanctions on Iraq to be lifted. His greatest achievement will be to restore quiet to his kingdom with the sound of motors whirling in those 12,000 rusting trucks in Akaba.

Religion and policy

The contemptible cartoon, reminiscent of the sketches of Jews which appeared when the Nazis rose to power, published this week in the official *Ruz al-Yusuf* newspaper in Cairo should serve as a red light, particularly to peace-loving Israelis.

The subject of the cartoon, US Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, an Orthodox Jew, is the last person who deserves a welcome of this type, particularly from the Egyptians. If Shimon Peres had won the last elections, it may reasonably be assumed that Martin Indyk would have been replaced by Dan Kurtzer and not Ned Walker.

If Kurtzer were to serve in Tel Aviv, one can assume that he would don a black, knitted kippa, like the one he wears on Shabbat to attend services at his synagogue in Silver Spring, north of Washington.

One outcome of Peres's losing is that Kurtzer serves in Cairo rather than Tel Aviv. The Netanyahu government was wary of him and signaled to Washington that his appointment would be unwelcome. And this was not because of his kippa.

Kurtzer grew up in the American foreign service. He is not a political appointment. He is a Middle East specialist who has been through the State Department's diplomatic school in Virginia. He is tied to Israel in his own way, and Israel's existence within pre-1967 borders undoubtedly important to him. If he had made him an Israeli, he would most likely be a Peace Now

activist, or thereabouts. He may even have been included among those pilgrims to Washington who occasionally advocate American pressure on Israel.

This is the reason for the Likud government's approach to his candidacy. It was concerned that over-involvement on his part would result in such pressure. The real reason why he has never considered making aliya is his frank belief in American values and in the flag which he serves so faithfully.

Several years ago, on one of his visits to Israel, he had to travel on Shabbat for work purposes. He looked for a non-Jewish driver. I wrote about it and he was furious: "Belief is a purely private issue," he told me.

When I was posted in Washington I came to appreciate him, even when I disagreed with his views. Not just because of his extensive knowledge of the Middle East, but because of his warm approach to people and their problems. The Palestinian struggle for independence, like the hardship of the simple Egyptian citizen, will only gain from his humane approach and his personal commitment to bringing peace to the region.

For this reason precisely, the antisemitism reflected in the cartoon in the Egyptian press should concern all peace-loving Israelis, at least as much as it perturbs the US administration.

A painful Purim party

This week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu compared the foolish statements made by Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, on what he would do were he a Palestinian, and Maj.-Gen. (res.) Shlomo Gazit, drawing an analogy between knitted-kippa soldiers and those who served in the Nazi army, to a com-

puter virus. The political system has turned it into a Purim party.

A senior Labor official told me that what perturbs him is not what Barak said on Gideon Levy's TV program, "with which I could easily have identified if it had been said off the record, but how it will be possible to persuade the electorate that Barak does not need the years it took the inexperienced Netanyahu to acclimatize to high office, which requires intelligence and common sense."

There were even some right-wingers who took advantage of Gazit's comments to criticize Netanyahu. "Gazit is old hat," one of them said. "He's not relevant, he's pathetic. But more serious is the Left's attempt to block the entry into the country's elite of those who hold views which are centrist or moderate right-wing, and Netanyahu's failure to help his own kind break into the network of policy makers."

A well-known Likud personality, who attempted to rally support for a series of appointments to key positions for people in the academic world with views similar to his, said it is actually those close to Netanyahu who veto any suggestions of offering such positions to capable people.

"Throughout his political career," he said, "Netanyahu has been exposed to attacks from within his own party and other sources, and therefore has preferred to surround himself with those who display loyalty rather than competence. Now, these advisers block the appointment of any serious party personality, for fear of losing access to the prime minister's ear. Any competent politician would not need them as intermediaries. And so, Netanyahu himself blocks the elites from worthy people who identify with his ideology."

Never mind Gazit's ridiculous comments on soldiers who wear knitted kippot, his reference to Brig.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror just adds fuel to the fire. Amidror's sole crime is his religious affiliation. Anyone who knows him should be aware that he has nothing in common with Gush Emunim and that his intelligence assessments have always been characterized by honesty and fairness. Actually, officers from his era say Gazit's own military career was spent around politicians, from the time he served as head of Moshe Dayan's office to his release from the IDF.

Pittul

This Monday, when the grove in memory of Nikolai Rappaport was planted in the Ben-Shemen Forest, the Channel 1 reporter approached the Jewish National Fund spokesman to express her disapproval of the "festival" surrounding the bereaved family, which had been invited to Israel for this purpose.

"Israel does not forget those children who sacrificed their lives for this country. The Israeli people remembers them and the debt it owes them," Netanyahu said with real sadness.

The attitude to the Rappaport family by the media is the one dictated by the various spokesmen's offices. Following President Ezer Weizman's visit, we all lamented the plight of the family. After the explanations provided by the various government ministries, we almost accused the family of smuggling absorption funds to the Caucasus in order to purchase a home for the bereaved mother.

Following the tragedy in the Rappaport family, I wrote about a family in similar circumstances. The mother, Anna Wolodina, came

here with her son Kostia, who is now serving in a combat unit on the Lebanese border. Anna, a theater director, has not managed to find work and lives hand to mouth. Meanwhile, her husband has also arrived. He is not Jewish and suffers from cancer. After the article was published, an anonymous family presented Anna with a subscription to the Haifa Theater.

That's all that came out of the publication. The father has still not received his immigrant's card and therefore is not entitled to join a health fund. The trees planted in the Ben-Shemen Forest will not bring Nikolai back, but reasonable treatment of the Wolodina family may just restore some of our lost honor.

Pollard

I don't know if recognizing Jonathan Pollard as an agent will set him free any faster. I find it hard to believe his wife's claims that the Israeli Embassy promised him the world. This is not the way of diplomats. However, I was impressed by a quote presented by Yitzhak Oren, minister at the embassy in Washington, who this week visited a leader of one of the most important Jewish organizations there. The leader asked how Pollard explains the fact that, despite the injustice inflicted on him by Israel, he still wants to make aliya.

Oren replied with a quote directly from the spy: "I have been grossly maltreated by the Israeli government, but I know that when I wander the streets of Jerusalem, I will see someone wearing a leather glove which conceals a hand lost in battle. Who am I in comparison? How can my suffering be compared with his? I know that in Israel there are hundreds like him and like me. I cannot possibly feel hurt there."

Kosovo leader: Talks with Serbia only on secession

Belgrade rejects demand outright;
US to Albanians: Compromise

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) — Serbia yesterday ruled out any talks with Kosovo Albanian leaders until they give up their demands for independence for the troubled province.

The government reacted immediately after the main Kosovo Albanian leader said he was prepared to talk, but not to consider any solution that does not grant Kosovo total independence.

The international community, concerned that violence in Kosovo could reignite ethnic tensions in the Balkans, urged the two sides to open a dialogue on its future after a police crackdown last week in which some 80 people died.

Though the fighting was reported to have ended, the bitterness remained as over 50 of the bodies were exhumed by relatives yesterday for reburial with Muslim rites.

Police and firemen had buried the bodies on Tuesday after the families refused to enter them before independent autopsies were carried out by foreign pathologists.

In the Kosovo capital Pristina, Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the main Albanian party, the LDK, said he is ready to enter a dialogue with Belgrade, but ruled out any solution that does not include independence for the province.

"Former Yugoslavia has ceased to exist," he told reporters. "Kosovo has its own borders and we have not asked for a change of borders. Perhaps Serbia does not think that way now, but an independent Kosovo is a good thing for Serbia."

He said a return to the autonomy Kosovo enjoyed before it was suspended by Belgrade in 1989 "would only be a source of new conflicts here." But the government of Serbia, one of Yugoslavia's two constituent republics, immediately rejected the demand, insisting that any

talks must be in accordance with Serbia's constitution.

Asked whether Albanians would have to renounce any idea of secession before talks could start, Serbian Information Minister Radmila Milentjevic replied: "Absolutely, because the position of the government here is that these talks will have to take place within Serbia and in accordance with the constitution of Serbia."

Responding to Rugova's demand, she told Reuters: "This is completely against our constitution, this is unacceptable for us, and I think this position is unfortunate, because it does not offer the possibility of negotiations." The minister said it is now up to the international community to deal with Rugova and others sharing his views, "because the world community has taken a very firm position in support of the integrity of the borders of Serbia and Yugoslavia."

Western governments support a return to autonomy for Kosovo, where 90 percent of the 1.8 million population are ethnic Albanians. But they have told Rugova they will not back independence demands.

The West is reluctant openly to put heavy pressure on the Kosovo Albanians in the run-up to an election in Kosovo this month while tempers are high over the latest deaths. But Western sources said US Balkan envoy Robert Gelbard had warned Albanian politicians on Tuesday that there is no alternative to compromise with Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic. Gelbard urged Rugova to open private lines to Milosevic once nationalist fury had cooled.

"Rugova should know by now that independence is not an option and that continued violence will lessen Western support," a diplomatic source said.

Gelbard said the Albanians



An elderly ethnic Albanian prays over the graves of his compatriots yesterday in the village of Donji Prekaz, some 40 kilometers west of Pristina. Ethnic Albanians began unearthing bodies for reburial, after Serb authorities buried the victims in one mass grave. (AP)

should be given "advanced status," which diplomats said means greater control over their own affairs in Kosovo but not outright independence.

Western powers led by the United States have threatened Milosevic with a potentially crippling tightening of economic

sanctions if he has not made progress towards a compromise with Rugova within 10 days.

Washington has condemned alleged terrorism by the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), but judged that Milosevic had over-reacted in his attack on the guerrillas in central Kosovo last

week.

Gelbard said on Tuesday that Serb anti-terrorist units had used "brutal, disproportionate and overwhelming" force against villages said to harbor the KLA.

The UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague said it has the right to prosecute possible suspects in the

Kosovo violence and is gathering evidence.

In the village of Prekaz, meanwhile, Western reporters watched as 53 coffins were exhumed by local Albanians from a muddy field. Many of the bullet-riddled bodies were so badly charred they were beyond identification. The

LDK said the dead included 12 children and 14 women. The victims included several men of the Jasari family, alleged by police to be KLA leaders.

The bodies were being reburied in the same field but pointing toward Mecca according to Muslim custom.

Milosevic, Saddam: West's eternal villains

LONDON (Reuters) — In the West's pantheon of villains, two enduring rulers have dominated the 1990s — Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic.

Both the Iraqi and Yugoslav presidents have used force to challenge the West's version of a post-Cold War "new world order" and to split the international community.

And in both cases, Western governments and media have personalized the conflicts with them.

Both leaders see their nations as victims of Western injustice, and to the West's frustration, both are still in power despite international isolation, UN sanctions, and Western aid to their opponents.

"They share an utter ruthlessness and single-mindedness. Democratic leaderships are always going to be behind the curve in dealing with them," said Colonel Terry Taylor, deputy director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Both men have led their countries to the brink of economic ruin rather than give in to UN sanctions and have used their international

pariah status to buttress their domestic power base.

But analysts say there are key differences between the two leaders, and in the way the West handles them.

"Saddam sees himself as the leader of the Arab world and wholeheartedly rejects everything the West stands for, whereas Milosevic would like nothing better than to be accepted as a respectable European statesman," said Jonathan Eyal of Britain's Royal United Services Institute, a think tank on strategic affairs.

"While the international community universally regards Saddam as the problem in Iraq, it sees Milosevic as both part of the problem and part of the solution in the Yugoslav case," Eyal said. "There is a sense of 'better the devil we know'."

Despite world revulsion at ethnic cleansing by the Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia, and an outcry over last week's crackdown on ethnic Albanian nationalists in the Serbian province of Kosovo, Western analysts say Milosevic's rule is less brutal than Saddam's.

BACKGROUND

by MICHAEL TAYLOR

"Milosevic did not use tanks and helicopters to crush daily demonstrations by students in Belgrade last year. That sort of anti-government protest is unimaginable in Baghdad," Eyal said. "In Serbia you can stand up and say, 'Milosevic is an idiot' and nothing will happen to you."

Nor has the Serb leader developed or used weapons of mass destruction, or invaded neighboring states, as Saddam has.

While both leaders sometimes appear immune to pressure short of the threat or use of overwhelming military force, Western officials say Milosevic is more responsive to economic stimuli than Saddam.

"Saddam has all the money he needs and his main driving factor is regime survival. Milosevic has to be more sensitive to Serbian public opinion and sanctions were important in bringing him to

accept the Dayton peace agreement in Bosnia," Taylor said.

Both men, who rose to power in one-party states, have proved more durable than their Western adversaries, outlasting US president George Bush and two British prime ministers. One of their common strengths, Eyal says, is their ability to exploit the West's short attention span for foreign problems, wearing down their adversaries and striking when Western vigilance has slipped.

Looking to historic allies Russia and — to a lesser extent — France for diplomatic support, they aim to erode and escape from sanctions without yielding on their core interests.

Indeed, Saddam and Milosevic sometimes seem to play on each other's crises with the West to seize the initiative.

Historians say Milosevic took advantage of the Serb's distraction with the Gulf War in 1991 to crack down on political opposition in Belgrade. Western diplomats also believe the Yugoslav leader used the international preoccupation with the crisis with Iraq over

UN weapons inspections in timing this month's onslaught on ethnic Albanian nationalists in Kosovo.

Furthermore, Russia's refusal to join Western powers in financial sanctions against Belgrade may have arisen directly from resentment at having been brushed aside by the US and Britain in the Iraq crisis, diplomats said.

Western attempts to foster political alternatives to the two strongmen have been spectacularly unsuccessful.

Saddam used an armed strike on the northern town of Irbil in 1996 to smash a CIA-funded Iraqi opposition coalition and exploited fighting between Kurdish factions to reassert his grip on northern Iraq.

Milosevic defeated a US-backed candidate for the Serbian presidency in 1992 and outfoxed and split the coalition of democratic opponents who won Serbian municipal elections in December 1996. Ironically, he now faces his biggest political challenge not from Western-backed liberals but from even more hard-line Serb nationalists in the Radical Party.

France to EU

Invite Turkey to aspirants' forum

PARIS (Reuters) — France wants Turkey to be told that it is welcome at a meeting of aspiring European Union members today despite the Turkish government's decision to stay away after the EU snubbed its membership.

A spokeswoman for French President Jacques Chirac said yesterday France would like a final statement from the special European Conference being held in London to make clear that Turkey was still welcome to participate at later meetings.

The Conference is meant to provide a forum for countries seeking to join the European Union, grouping those invited to start early membership talks with others waiting in the wings.

It will include the 15 EU member states, 10 countries from the former Communist bloc in eastern and central Europe plus Cyprus. Turkey refused to go to the Conference after the EU failed to give it a timetable for opening membership talks.

"This invitation remains open," Chirac's spokeswoman Catherine Colonna told a news conference. "France hopes that Turkey can join the European Conference as quickly as possible."

"France wants the final statement to be as explicit as possible on this point," she added.

She also said the absence of a delegation from Cyprus, grouping the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities, called into question plans to press ahead with early membership talks with the divided Mediterranean island.

At a summit in Luxembourg last December, EU leaders agreed that those membership talks should be used as an opportunity to push for reconciliation in Cyprus, divided since Turkish troops invaded the northern third of the island in 1974.

A statement issued by EU leaders in December said membership talks should be for the benefit of all communities in Cyprus and it called on the Cypriot government to include Turkish Cypriot representatives in its delegation.

"If the conclusions from Luxembourg are not respected, we have to consider the consequences," Colonna said. "One would have to ask how useful they are."

Along with Cyprus, the EU was due to start membership talks with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia at the end of this month.

Death for Egyptian nurse who killed patients

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — An Egyptian court yesterday sentenced to death a nurse after finding her guilty of killing a patient and attempting to kill 29 others.

Aida Nur el-Din, dubbed "the angel of death" by newspapers, broke down as the judge read out the sentence, and screamed that she was framed by hospital officials and doctors seeking to cover their negligence.

Convictions and sentences are carried out by the same court and usually at the same time in Egypt. Nur el-Din has the option to appeal, but it is not clear whether she will. Prosecutors said Nur el-Din targeted her victims in the neurology ward where she worked to seek revenge against the doctor in charge who had refused to respond to her romantic overtures.

The court, in the northern city of Alexandria, ordered that the sentence be referred to Egypt's mufti, or leading Islamic cleric, for approval and set March 26 as the date for official sentencing. All death sentences must be ratified by the mufti, but the procedure is a formality.

Nur el-Din, 25, was arrested in August, after doctors and officials at the state-run Al-Moeri Hospital in Alexandria said they discovered a pattern of 33 deaths from respiratory failure among intensive care and neurology ward patients shortly after they had successfully undergone surgery.

Auschwitz synagogue restored to Jews

By MONIKA SCHLÖSSER

WARSAW (AP) — A synagogue near Auschwitz has been restored to Poland's Jewish community, the first action under a government program to find restitution for seized Jewish property.

Located in the southern city of Oswiecim, just miles from the notorious Nazi camp, the synagogue was seized under a 1946 communist decree stripping Jewish communities and individuals of buildings and land.

The decision was made March 2 by the government's Jewish Community Regulating Commission, formed last year under a law to restore religious property to Poland's 20,000 Jews. The commission has received 58 claims so far; Jewish groups have four more years to seek restitution.

"It is a positive symbol for the commission's future work that the first decision concerned

the Oswiecim synagogue," said Boguslaw Skreta, a co-chairman of the commission.

Jewish community leader Stanislaw Krajewski said the synagogue will be turned into a Jewish museum.

Before World War II, Poland had a thriving Jewish community of 3.5 million. Only 250,000 Jews survived the Holocaust, and most of them fled Poland's antisemitic communist regimes.

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989, democratic Poland has been trying to restore Jewish property — a complicated, arduous procedure that often involves battles with new owners unwilling to leave. A law for the restoration of private property is still in the works.

Restoring communal Jewish property is also complicated; many buildings were destroyed during the war and replaced by new ones, now owned by state institutions.

Three contentious examples are in the southern city of Bielsko-Biala: The site of a former synagogue, burned by the Nazis in September 1939, is now an art exhibit center; a Jewish culture center now houses a theater; and the Jewish community's offices became a provincial court under communism.

The decision on the Oswiecim synagogue was relatively simple, as the run-down building was empty and subject to no other claims. Because Oswiecim's Jewish community was destroyed by the Nazis, the government gave the synagogue to Jews in nearby Bielsko-Biala.

From 1940-45, some 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, were killed in the gas chambers of Auschwitz or died there of hunger, disease and forced labor. Before the war, Bielsko-Biala had a thriving Jewish community of thousands. Most died in Auschwitz. Now the community has 60 members.

Austrians to auction Sissi's effects

By GERR MOULSON

GENEVA (AP) — Admirers of "Sissi," Austria's assassinated Empress Elisabeth, said yesterday that they will auction some of her personal effects at a gala evening marking the centennial of her death.

Jacques Mayer, head of the organizing committee, said the "Imperial Soiree" September 9 will be limited to 220 guests paying \$138 each.

It is one of a series of events being organized around Europe to commemorate the death of Elisabeth, 60, who was stabbed in Geneva by an Italian anarchist on September 10, 1898. She died

hours later.

Ever since, her followers have cherished her memory as a beautiful woman liberated decades ahead of her time.

The auction is to include a number of Sissi's personal items donated by private collectors. Proceeds are to go to a local charity to help drug addicts, organizers said.

David Bennett, president of the Swiss branch of the auction house Sotheby's, declined to predict the sale price. Some 10 pieces, many of them items of clothing, will be up for auction, he said.

From mid-August, a collection of Sissi's objects, including the murder weapon, will be exhibited

at the luxury lakeside Beau Rivage Hotel, of which Mayer is the director.

The attack took place just outside the hotel. Mayer's committee hopes to erect a larger-than-life statue of the empress by British sculptor Philip Jackson nearby, but is still seeking sponsors.

The organizers are negotiating a possible showing of the exhibition in Japan, where Sissi is well-known as a cartoon character, Mayer said.

Other events include musical and theatrical celebrations in Vienna and Bad Ischl, Austria; an exhibition in Paris, and guided tours to Bavaria, where Sissi was born; and Switzerland for devo-

tees of the empress.

Ardent Sissi fans can take a six-day "centennial journey" in September to sites in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Hungary associated with the empress, at a cost of \$4,400.

Married to Emperor Franz Josef, Elisabeth suffered a series of tragedies including the mysterious death of her son, the Archduke Rudolf, in 1889.

Commemorating the death of this "extremely modern" woman isn't a sign that the organizers are monarchist or nostalgic, Mayer maintained. Sissi exercised to keep fit and is seen as a liberated woman in an era when this was almost unheard of.

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Dancing with Tijuana grass

An American-Mexican anti-drug effort fails before it starts

By DOUGLAS FARAH and MOLLY MOORE

WASHINGTON — In 1996, as Mexican drug cartels were expanding their power and reach, officials in Washington and Mexico City decided to fight the growing threat by setting aside their long-standing distrust and building combined law enforcement units to gather intelligence and attack the cartels.

Today the program — which the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration last year called the "primary program for cooperative law enforcement efforts" — is a shambles, according to US law enforcement and congressional sources.

For the past 14 months, agents from the DEA, FBI and US Customs Service, who were to form the backbone of the US portion of the force, have refused to cross the border because they are not allowed to carry weapons in Mexico.

And at least five senior Mexican officials involved in the program have been arrested on suspicion of taking money from drug traffickers, kidnapping key witnesses or stealing confiscated cocaine.

The units, called Bilateral Border Task Forces, initially were established in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez — seats of the largest Mexican drug trafficking organizations — and the

northern industrial city of Monterrey. The task forces, with offices in four other north Mexican towns, were seen as vital to increasing the flow of information between the nations' counter-drug forces along the 2,000-mile border.

US and Mexican officials agreed that the performance of the task forces would be a yardstick by which to measure cooperation between the two nations, and monitoring their success was included formally in the White House's National Drug Control Strategy report issued last month.

"Regrettably, [the task forces] were never really implemented," DEA chief Thomas Constantine told Congress last week, blaming the failure on corruption and lack of security. US officials said the Mexican government failed to finance the task forces and that US agencies had borne the full cost of Mexican operations until last September. At that point, US officials said, Mexico said it no longer wanted US funding and that the task force would be paid for with money confiscated from drug traffickers.

The analysis of the effort's failure comes as some members of Congress gear up to try to overturn the Clinton administration's decision last week to certify Mexico as fully cooperating in the anti-drug war. These opponents argue that

Mexico has not taken significant steps to fight drug trafficking nor related corruption.

Every attempt to organize binational law enforcement units along the border has failed since DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was tortured and murdered in Mexico in 1985, dramatically changing the relationship between the two nations' law enforcement agencies.

The failure of the task forces points to the deep distrust and differences in perception on both sides of the border, despite official rhetoric in Mexico City and Washington praising binational cooperation.

The task forces' Mexican component was dismantled after Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, head of Mexico's anti-drug agency, was arrested in February 1997 for alleged ties to one of the country's most powerful drug cartels.

To rebuild a credible force, Mexican task force participants are supposed to be screened, first by the Mexican attorney general's office and then "super vetted" by US agencies. US officials said about 800 people had passed the Mexican process, but of those, only 206 had passed the US vetting.

Officials agree that the screening is vital to try to avoid the myriad cases of corruption that have

plagued the units.

Because of the lack of vetted officers, said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who closely monitors the issue, the task force intelligence facilities "are manned by non-vetted, non-law enforcement civilians and military staff and have only produced leads from telephone intercepts on low-level traffickers." US critics of the task forces point to troubling cases of corruption involving Mexican members of the units: Ignacio Weber Rodriguez, commander of the Tijuana task force, was arrested for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping of a DEA informant on March 5, 1997.

Alejandro Hodoayan Palacios, a US citizen who reportedly had worked for the major drug cartel run by the Arellano Felix brothers in Tijuana, was giving information to DEA agents in San Diego at the time of his kidnapping. Hodoayan has not been seen since he was nabbed in a downtown Tijuana parking lot by armed men, allegedly including Weber.

Weber later was identified by Hodoayan's mother, who tried to stop the kidnappers from dragging her son out of their vehicle. He remains under house arrest in Tijuana.

In May, 21 police and army officers — including the Mexican com-

mander and four members of a combined border task force — were arrested for allegedly stealing a half-ton of cocaine from the evidence room at the Mexican attorney general's office in San Luis Rio Colorado, which straddles the Arizona border. Only two remain in custody.

Some packages of the stolen cocaine, marked with the attorney general's evidence stamps, later were confiscated during a drug bust in San Diego, according to senior Mexican law enforcement officials.

Horacio Brunt Acosta, a Mexican federal police commander in charge of intelligence operations for the border task forces, was fired last year for allegedly taking bribes from drug traffickers. US and Mexican law enforcement officials recently identified Brunt as a suspected drug trafficker in Arizona. US officials said they have asked the Mexicans for information on Brunt's activities but so far have received nothing.

Another senior task force member based in Monterrey last year invited drug traffickers to the agency's "safe house," not only giving away the location but allowing the traffickers to identify all the agents, US officials said.

Because of the lack of funds, US officials said, the task forces' safe houses, which were to be changed

every few months to avoid raising suspicions, were left unchanged for two or three years. Only in the past month, as funds have become available, have some of the houses been changed, said US and Mexican officials.

Perceptual problems also have hindered the task forces. While Mexican officials said the task forces were seen as intelligence-gathering units, US officials said they envisioned the integration of intelligence gathering and operational capabilities for a comprehensive attack on the drug cartels.

In a measure of just how different perceptions are, at the same time that US officials outline the failure of the task forces, Mexican officials are saying the units are functioning as planned.

"The task forces are fully equipped and fully operational," said Eduardo Ibarola, deputy attorney general for international affairs, in a meeting with journalists in Washington.

Mexican officials said the task forces have been in effect since May, when 70 young officers passed background checks by the Mexican attorney general's office and the FBI, and underwent FBI training at Quantico.

They also said 150 troops from elite, US-trained Mexican military units are being sent to the border as

reinforcements. But a senior US law enforcement official said no cross-border intelligence is being shared and that there would be no such cooperation until the security issue and corruption were addressed.

US officials also remain furious that US agents cannot carry weapons into Mexico. US agents stopped crossing the border on Jan. 1, 1997.

"The issue of personal security for US agents working with the task forces in Mexico has not been resolved and as a result, the task forces are not operational and will not be until the security issue is resolved," Feinstein said Wednesday in a Senate speech.

"This critical joint working relationship is made impossible by Mexican policies that do not allow for adequate immunities or physical security for US special agents while working in Mexico," Feinstein said.

A Mexican official disputed the charge, saying it is an issue of national sovereignty.

"Mexico cannot permit foreign agents to carry weapons in Mexico as we do not ask that Mexicans be allowed to carry weapons elsewhere," the official said. "It is a very sensitive issue; it may be one of those differences that may not be resolvable."

(Washington Post)

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A challenge to the Orthodox

JUDAISM BEYOND GOD by Sherwin T. Wine. Hoboken, New Jersey, Ktav Publishing House, Inc. 289pp. \$25.

By Vivienne Levy

Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine is a Humanistic Jew. His Judaism Beyond God is a gauntlet in the face of Orthodox Jewry, an intellectual challenge to Jews of more moderate persuasions, and everyman's guide to a humanistic view of Jewish history and identity.

Humanistic Judaism asserts that the natural universe stands on its own, requiring no supernatural intervention. It champions the value of human existence and the power of human beings to solve their problems both individually and collectively. "Life," proclaimed the movement's International Federation in Detroit in 1986, "should be directed to the satisfaction of human needs. Every person is entitled to life, dignity, and freedom."

Rabbi Wine founded the first Humanistic Jewish congregation — the Birmingham Temple — in 1963. Six years later, he helped establish the Society for Humanistic Judaism, whose membership includes congregations, groups and individuals all over the world.

He has an impressive list of titles and affiliations with the North American world of secular Judaism. But, I suspect for many readers the term alone — secular Judaism — will



Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine

raise problems, not only as a blatant oxymoron, but also as a heretical break with the millennia of Jewish "obedience" in the struggle to maintain Jewish existence and survival.

Wine succeeds in stripping conventional Judaism free of its monumental history, its mysticism and belief, and its obsessive need for interpretation and reinterpretation. He, in his lifelong and thorough examination of Jews and Judaism, has done the hard work for us; he has prepared an easy handbook for the new millennium. A kind of how-to-be-Jewish on the brink of the future.

At the same time, he fails to answer any of the constantly raised questions that continue to perplex the Jewish people. Is Judaism a theology? Is it a religious way of life? Is it an ethnic loyalty or an attachment to history and an ancient land? Nevertheless, he conducts his reader through a "Celebration of Judaism," an interpretation of the Jewish festivals and holidays, which like the holidays of most national and religious groups are connected with historical and mythical events. "They are particularly problematic to Humanistic Jews because the religious authority has over the centuries made them convenient vehicles for rabbinic propaganda," he contends.

The core Jewish belief in monotheism is presented through the Yahveh story: "Yahveh was god of the whole world... Yahveh was all-powerful: there was nothing he could not do." And, at the time of the defeat and conquest of the Jews by the Chaldeans and the Persians, this god became the focus of a motivational system which was deliberately cultivated by the early priests and rabbinic establishment to tether the Jews and maintain Jewish identity.

A pragmatic, yet intriguing interpretation of the Western secular revolution and how it affected the Jews takes the religious rebellion even further. "As for God, he is no longer presented in educated circles as a lord and master. The new egalitarian

theology prefers him to be a cosmic friend," writes Wine.

As the age of reason prevails, there follows action and reaction. First, the Rejectionists (who despised the separation of religion from state). Second, the Ambivalents (who wanted both faith and reason: namely the Modern Orthodox, the Conservatives and the Reconstructionists). And third, the Enthusiasts (who loved the secular revolution with gusto). In a secular state, the latter group could be comfortably ethnic, without having to be religious.

Ironically, this has always been precisely the requirement of the nonobservant Jew in Israel. Yet, even today in the Jewish State, it is hardly admitted with the same guilt-free abandonment of Orthodox rules and regulations enjoyed by Humanistic Jews in the Diaspora.

As for Wine and his followers, the existence of the modern State of Israel holds only marginal relevance to their philosophy of Judaism. Zionism and Israel take up barely 10 pages of the 289-page book which, in its entirety, is ambitiously described by the author as presenting "a radical new way of being Jewish."

Vivienne Levy, who was associated with the IDC-Brookdale Institute, died on Saturday in Jerusalem. She was a consummate professional in her writing and a gracious and passionate spirit in life. Her loss will be felt by all those who knew her.

Presidential hit list

STAR-SPANGLED MEN: America's Ten Worst Presidents by Nathan Miller. New York, Scribner. 272 pp. \$23.

By Larry Williams

So, you think Bill Clinton must be about the worst president ever? He's been accused of having adulterous affairs. In the Oval Office no less. And he proposed that big health care bureaucracy that everybody hated. And, oh, you could go on and on.

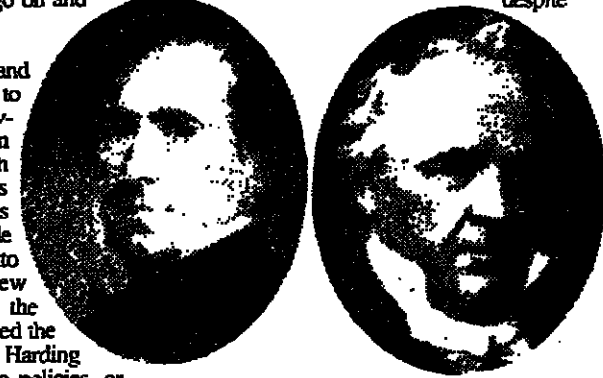
Fuggeddsaboutit. Clinton's shortcomings, and the damage he's likely to do to the United States before leaving office, hardly drop him into the same class with such White House failures as Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan (whose ineptitude helped plunge the nation into the Civil War); Andrew Johnson (who made sure the white power structure survived the South's defeat); Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge (whose policies, or lack thereof, led to the Great Depression); and Richard Nixon (who... well, you know what he did).

In *Star-Spangled Men*, Nathan Miller ranks those six among the 10 worst American presidents, an exercise he freely admits undertaking simply for the fun of provoking a little controversy among political pundits and historians.

Miller knows something about the subject.

Perhaps most important, though, he considered how severely a president harmed the country during his tenure.

(Don't let the criteria put you off. This book isn't as serious as they make it seem. Sure, the legacies of some of these bad presidents were economic calamities, wars, crime, human rights abuses, etc. But to be a bad president is also to be a funny president. This book is very funny.) By those standards, Nixon is the worst of all, says Miller. This, despite



Franklin Pierce (left) and James Buchanan

Nixon's "solid record of accomplishments in both domestic and foreign affairs." How can someone with that record be worse than, say, Harding, a man of hardly any accomplishments, and whose henchmen ran Washington like a national Tammany Hall? Miller settles on Nixon because he "blatantly violated the Constitution," was the only president to resign to avoid impeachment, and, apparently, because Nixon had the stuff to be a good president, if not for his tragic flaws.

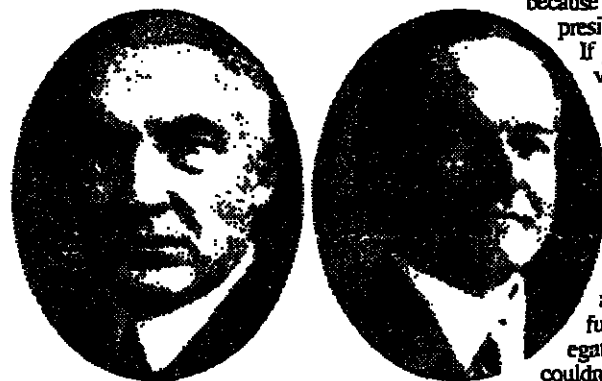
If picking Nixon as the worst provokes an outcry from the Right, it won't be because Miller favored the Left. His choice for No. 10 worst president is Jimmy Carter, probably one of the most righteous men ever to hold the office.

That's fine, Miller says, but Carter still flopped as president, an office for which he was woefully unprepared. He couldn't delegate, he couldn't decide, and he couldn't face political reality when compromise was required.

The thing about Nixon and Carter is that they served so recently that it's not possible for a reader to evaluate them with historical detachment. Same is true of Ronald Reagan, who did not make Miller's list. Certainly, some people will disagree with that decision.

(Miller's list also includes William Howard Taft, Benjamin Harrison and Ulysses S. Grant.)

(The Hartford Courant)



Warren G. Harding (left) and Calvin Coolidge

He's written 12 other books on history and politics, including biographical works on two presidents — both named Roosevelt. Needless to say, they're not among the chosen 10.

What does Miller look for in a bad president? Generally just the opposite of the qualities that make a good president: character, political vision, integrity and so on.

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What does Miller look for in a bad president? Generally just the opposite of the qualities that make a good president: character, political vision, integrity and so on.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. HarperCollins.
2. *The Partner* by John Grisham. Dell, Arrow.
3. *Serpent's Tooth* by Faye Kellerman. Headline, Avon.
4. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. Sceptre, Vintage.
5. *The Ranch* by Danielle Steel. Dell, Corgi.
6. *Gospel According to the Son* by Norman Mailer. Ballantine, Abacus.
7. *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth. Vintage.
8. *Acts of Love* by Judith Michael. Warner, Fawcett.
9. *Windfall* by Penny Vincenzi. Orion.
10. *Vita Brevis* by Jostain Gaarder. Orion.

Exile and cunning

THE DAWN: Political Teachings of the Book of Esther by Yoram Hazony. Jerusalem, Genesis Press. 315 pp. Price not stated.

By Calev Ben David

Recent years have seen the growth of a new type of midrash that attempts to interpret the Bible primarily through a political lens. In this vein we have seen book-length works from the likes of conservative *New York Times* columnist William Safire, who drew a parallel between beleaguered Job and the brave dissidents who struggled against the Soviet regime, and from the liberal Princeton professor Michael Walzer, who linked the Exodus saga to the histories of such other national liberation movements as the French and American revolutions.

Now Dr. Yoram Hazony, director of the Shalem Institute, a Jerusalem-based right-wing think tank, takes the same basic approach to the Book of Esther in *The Dawn*.

Hazony worked briefly at *The Jerusalem Post* some nine years ago and has occasionally contributed to this paper since then. Editorial fairness compels me to admit that I am not in sympathy with his political views, and nor was I reassured by his introductory acknowledgement that "Binyamin Netanyahu taught me virtually everything I know about the working of politics, and much about the Jewish people, besides." Was Hazony going to suggest that the Book of Esther teaches us that a ruler

is sometimes justified in letting his wife butt into affairs of state?

However, to my pleasant surprise, *The Dawn* turned out to be a thoughtful, provocative, gracefully written, assiduously researched and elegantly argued piece of work. One doesn't necessarily have to agree with all of the author's conclusions — and I don't — to find this a worthwhile and stimulating read.

Hazony gets off on the right foot by simply choosing Esther as the subject of an in-depth political analysis of the text. As he notes at the start, Esther is in many ways the most atypical book in the biblical canon. The word "God" appears nowhere in the text, and there are no miracles or any other kinds of divine intervention. It is, through the sometimes morally questionable machinations of Mordechai and Esther — including both serving and sleeping with an autocratic Gentile monarch — that the greater good of saving the Jews of Persia is achieved.

Thus to the talmudic rabbis, living in the era immediately following the downfall of the Second Jewish Commonwealth, Esther needed to be included in the canon because it could serve as a valuable *realpolitik* guide to Jewish survival in an often hostile Diaspora. "The Book of Esther," writes Hazony "deals first and foremost with the problem of a Jewish politics in exile. How the Jews, deprived of every sovereign institution of power, may nevertheless participate in, and in the last resort make use of, the authority of an alien government in ensuring their own vital interest, and in this case,

their lives." Exactly right.

Hazony's method is to break the Esther story down into key narrative points and themes — the depth of threat posed by Haman, the characteristics which distinguish Ahasuerus as an absolute monarch ruled by his passions, the exact position Mordechai occupied in his court, the real risks Esther ran to save her people — and subject them to a detailed examination that draws for inspiration on both classical rabbinic commentators and modern political philosophers.

It is admirable that Hazony attempts to explain, and in many cases defend, some of the more problematic aspects of the Purim story. This is especially so concerning what is probably the most unsettling episode in the Book of Esther: the mass execution of Haman's family and followers by the Jews of Persia after they are given the green light by Mordechai. "The Jews struck at all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying, and they did as they pleased to those who hated them," says the Bible.

Vengeful overkill? Not at all, says Hazony, but a deliberate tactic straight out of Machiavelli: "Men must either be caressed or annihilated; they will revenge themselves for small injuries, but cannot do so for great ones." While I strongly suspect that Hazony is a greater admirer of Machiavelli than I am, he is surely right that this was the message the authors of Esther intended to convey.

Still, as persuasively as Hazony argues his case for the Book of Esther — and this book is at heart an apology

of sorts — part of me remains deeply disturbed by his penultimate conclusion. Drawing comparisons between the Purim story and the Holocaust, he attempts to justify the seeming absence of God from the Book of Esther by citing the old cliché: "If we do our part, God will do his." Hazony then goes on: "After every holocaust, and certainly the one in our time, it must be asked again whether this is all nonsense. . . . To this there can be two answers, both possible, and neither pleasant."

The first answer he suggests is that God did ultimately intervene in the Holocaust by saving the Jewish people from total destruction. The second is that, unlike the Purim story, the Holocaust didn't have a happy ending because "God did not do his part because we did not do ours — that there were too many such as Mordechai who were placed to [prevent] the crisis, but who did not bother to do so, and that there were too many such as Esther who were placed to act boldly to stem the tide, but who chose to remain silent at that time."

Hazony is right — neither answer is pleasant, or, for that matter, especially convincing. Neither he, nor I, nor anyone else knows why God was silent during either the Purim story or the Holocaust, nor does it behoove us to judge the actions of the "Mordechais and Esthers" who may or may not have existed during the Holocaust period. As to why the Purim story has a happy ending — for the Jews anyway — there's a simpler explanation: That's simply how most fairy tales end.

BOOK BYTES

Look at the other side of the title page of any book and you will most likely find an ISBN number. The abbreviation stands for International Standard Book Number. The system was introduced in the 1960s, and the overall administration is carried out from Berlin, Germany. ISBNs, which are like fingerprints, are not a legal requirement, but are very useful for publishers, booksellers, libraries, authors and readers in ordering and keeping tabs on their wares.

Any publisher can qualify for an ISBN number. From the completed form, books are classified according to 46 major category headings, and sub-categorized into a further 2,000 headings, if desired. Tallying last year's applications for new ISBN numbers in the US alone, 7,000 new publisher prefixes were assigned. The majority are "small, specialized niche publishers, often mom-and-pop one-book operations," according to *Publishers Weekly*. Typically in the US, religious, fictional, how-to, business and children's titles lead the pack of new books from small publishers. The remaining 40 percent of new ISBNs fall into "other" categories. Among these came such titles as *Elliot Ness: The Real Story* (Knopf, Corgi, PA), *College Cheerleading Guide* (Sandra Chase, Simpsonville, SC), and *The Beginning of Something Good: 25 Romantic Recipes* (C&S, Seattle, WA).

An online update of the ISBN system called Digital Object Identifier (DOI) System is currently being introduced on the Internet. DOIs are alphanumeric digital markers, which include the ISBN or ISSN (International Standard Serial Number for magazines and journals). Attached to books, articles and even photographs, the DOI belongs to the "owner." So perhaps an Internet visitor sees a interesting

book chapter or table of contents, a diagram or image, or a magazine article with a DOI. Clicking on the DOI will instantly trace the fragment back to its owner, allowing the computerized researcher or customer to find out more information about the whole item. Visit the Book Industry Communication Internet site at www.bic.org.uk/bicinfo.html to learn more.

COLD MOUNTAIN (Atlantic Monthly Press), the first novel of 47-year-old author Charles Frazier, continues to make news. Beating out such notables as Don DeLillo and Cynthia Ozick, it was awarded the 1997 US National Book Award for fiction. *Cold Mountain* has firmly remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for over 25 weeks now, and to date the book has sold over a million copies. In the book trade, those in the know are seriously debating whether it will become "the biggest Civil War book success story since *Gone with the Wind*." And stoking the fires of *Cold Mountain* fever comes the latest news that Oscar-winning film director Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*) has bought the film rights, a move guaranteed to raise interest in the novel even further.

WHEN THRILLER writer James Patterson finished his most recent Alex Cross book, *Cat and Mouse* (UK, Headline/US, Little, Brown), he did not immediately send the book to either his agent or his publisher. "I had the manuscript [ready] back in February and I had just begun to see this woman, so I thought I would send her a copy and see what she thought of it." He was anxious about her reaction. "I called a couple of days later." As it happened, she liked the novel. In fact, she liked it so much that she decided to marry him.

David Brauner

The New York Times

BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$27.95.) A young lawyer comes to terms with himself after discovering his prestigious firm's dirty secret.
2. *Paradise* by Toni Morrison. (Knopf \$25.) A small Black utopia in rural Oklahoma experiences tragedy and regeneration when it encounters the real world.
3. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24.) A Confederate soldier journeys home to meet an old love.
4. *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen. (Random House \$23.) After her husband turns violent, a woman flees to Florida with her young son to start a new life under a new name.
5. *Thrill* by Jackie Collins. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) Passion and ambition at work and play among the film folk of New York and L.A.
6. *The Cat Who Sang for the Birds* by Lilian Jackson Braun. (Putnam \$22.95.) Owlman and his cats investigate a series of disasters.
7. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden. (Knopf \$25.) The life of a young woman in prewar Kyoto.
8. *Fear Nothing* by Dean Koontz. (Bantam \$26.95.) A man whose health makes it necessary for him to live at night witnesses mysteries.
9. *Birthday Letters* by Ted Hughes. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux \$20.) Poems addressed to the author's wife, Sylvia Plath, written after her suicide in 1963.
10. *Cuba Libre* by Elmore Leonard. (Delacorte \$23.95.) The machinations of Americans in Cuba on the eve of the Spanish-American War.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *Talking to Heaven* by James Wright. (Dutton \$22.) A "world-famous medium" discusses communication with the other side.
2. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
3. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday \$19.95.) A sportswriter tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor.
4. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) Mysterious death in Savannah, Ga.
5. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22.) Wealthy Americans have seven characteristics in common.
6. *The Long Hard Road Out of Hell* by Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss. (ReganBooks/HarperCollins \$24.) The memoirs of the ineluctable rock star.
7. *James Cameron's Titanic* by Ed W. Marsh. Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. (HarperCollins \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.
8. *Jackie After Jack* by Christopher Andersen. (Morrow \$25.) Jacqueline Kennedy's life after her husband's assassination.
9. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95.) An account of the northeast of 1991.
10. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) An account of the ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *The Partner* by John Grisham. (Dell \$7.99.) The pursuit of \$80 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer.
2. *The Ranch* by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$7.50.) Three women who were college roommates come to terms with themselves at a Wyoming resort.
3. *Small Town Girl* by LaVyrle Spencer. (Jove \$7.50.) A country music star, returning to her hometown, finds a new life.
4. *Muscle in the Night* by V.C. Andrews. (Pocket \$7.99.) Laura Logan and her twin brother experience pleasant dreams and dark spells.
5. *Hornet's Nest* by Patricia Cornwell. (Berkley \$7.50.) Two policewomen and a reporter patrol Charlotte, N.C.
6. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision \$5.99.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame.
7. *Los Alamos* by Joseph Kanon. (Island Del. \$7.50.) As scientists work on the A-bomb in 1945, a Manhattan Project security officer is murdered.
8. *The Cat Who Tailed a Thief* by Lilian Jackson Braun. (Jove \$6.99.) Jim Owlman and his feline sleuths battle a crime wave.
9. *Trunk Music* by Michael Connelly. (St. Martin's \$6.99.) Harry Bosch's investigation of a Hollywood producer's murder.
10. *The Calthorn Women* by Lila and Suzanne by Nora Roberts. (Silhouette \$6.99.) Life provides mystery and romance for two sisters.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *James Cameron's Titanic* by Ed W. Marsh. Photographs by Douglas Kirkland. (Harper Perennial \$20.) A lavishly illustrated account of the making of the film.
2. *A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord. (Bantam \$5.99.) A historian's account of the Titanic disaster.
3. *Leonardo DiCaprio: Modern-Day Romeo* by Grace Catalano. (Laurel-Leaf/Dell \$4.99.) The life of the film actor.
4. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes. (Broadway \$13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet.
5. *Just As I Am* by Billy Graham. (Harper Paperbacks \$7.99.) The autobiography of a crusading preacher.
6. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A Black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother.
7. *The Leonard DiCaprio Album* by Brian J. Robb. (Focus/Publishers Group West \$15.95.) An illustrated biography.
8. *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer. (Health Communications \$9.95.) The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.
9. *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Householders sue industrial polluters.
10. *The Discovery of the Titanic* by Robert D. Ballard with Rich Archbold. (Madison Press/Warner \$12.99.) An illustrated first-hand account of the quest to find the celebrated ship.

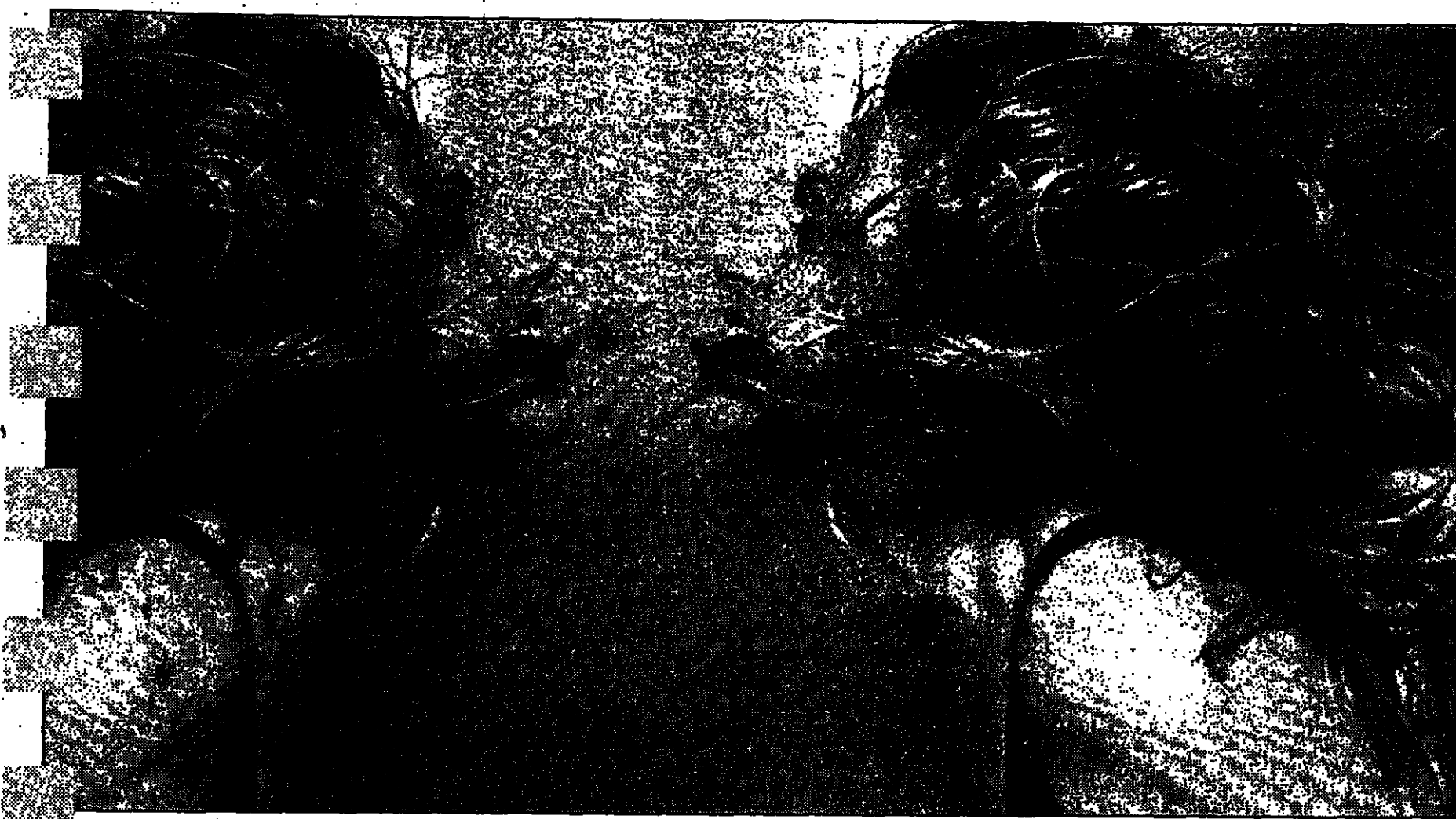
PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *The Beanie Baby Handbook* 1998 by Les Fox and Sue Fox. (West Highland \$6.95.) A new edition and a guide for collectors of the toys.
3. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
4. *Leonardo* by Grace Catalano. (Dell \$7.95.) A scrapbook of photographs and text about film actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.
2. *Don't Worry, Make Money* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$15.95.) Ways to achieve a more enjoyable and profitable life.
3. *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Improving communication and relationships.
4. *Eat Right 4 Your Type* by Peter J. D'Adamo with Catherine Whitney. (Putnam \$22.95.) Diets to suit each of the four blood types.

Weekender



Do critics review Madonna's image rather than her work? 'Absolutely... Besides, 50% of that image is what I put into it, and the rest is what others put into it.'

Me and my baby

By ROBERT HILBURN

If you've thought that Madonna has often seemed petulant and self-indulgent in her rise from sex goddess to media mogul, she's not alone. She thinks so too.

The reason her new *Ray of Light* is the most satisfying album of her career is that it reflects the soul-searching of a woman who is at a point in her life where she can look at herself with surprising candor and perspective. In both her singing and writing on the album, released by Warner Bros. Records in association with her own Maverick Records, Madonna expresses herself so convincingly that you don't feel you are listening merely to the latest career reinvention of a master pop strategist. "I needed fame for love, without a sacred thought..." she sings in the opening lines of the album. "And now I find I've changed my mind."

Madonna, 39, says that several experiences contributed to the making of the album, which speaks about the importance of finding and nurturing love. But one factor stands out for the star of the film *Evita*: her 16-month-old daughter, Lourdes Maria. "I feel like I'm starting my life all over in some way," she says. "My daughter's birth was like a rebirth for me." Madonna has no plans to marry the child's father, Carlos Leon, and is unsure whether she wants ever to marry anyone again. Her three-year marriage to actor Sean Penn ended in divorce in 1989. She would, however, like to have another child.

How much richer has your baby made your life?

'My daughter's birth was like a rebirth for me,' says Madonna, who speaks candidly about both her personal life and her career

It's infinitely richer. Every day, I'm so excited to wake up in the morning and see her.

Do you have a nickname for her?

Sure, Lola... And does Lola get whatever Lola wants?

Nope (laughs). I do spoil her, but I have my boundaries. If she had her way, she'd be eating candy all day. She loves candy. She doesn't like playing with toys, but she loves taking the top off of every writing implement in my house and drawing all over the walls. Unfortunately, all my friends spoil her when they come around. But what can you do?

What do you think the baby will mean in terms of your career ambition?

You have different priorities. When my publicist says you have to do this and this, I go, 'No. I don't,' where I once would have done it all. Now I'll say, 'Cut everything in half.'

How do you think that will translate in terms of future albums and films and tours?

It means I'm going to really have to pick and choose the things I do. My managers want me to go on tour for a year, but I just had to laugh because there's no way I'm going to do it. My lifestyle has changed, immensely. Where I'm going to be and how much time I

am with the baby is always going to come into the picture before I make any decision.

Do you feel that critics have been guilty of reviewing your image at times rather than your music or your acting?

Absolutely. I think that for many years people have been consumed with me — choices I've made personally vs. my artistic contributions. People act as if I'm the first one who tried to use image in rock 'n' roll. When is it new for people to create a strong image? What about Mick Jagger? Prince? You can go on and on. Besides, 50 percent of that image is what I put into it and the rest is what others put into it.

Your voice sounds truer on the new album than on the earlier records. Do you think there's a difference?

Yes. For one thing, there was the training that I did for *Evita*. I started working with a vocal coach and I discovered that I was using only half of my voice. Until then, I had pretty much accepted that I was a very limited range, which is fine. Anita O'Day and Edith Piaf had very limited ranges, too, and I am a big fan. So I figured I'd make do with the best I had. But then I realized I had to make some adjustments to sing those Andrew Lloyd Webber songs. I needed to increase my

range. I did a lot of work with an incredible coach. I've also been practicing yoga very seriously for a year and I believe that helped my voice and affected my singing.

The album's themes seem more personal than before. Are they, or are you just expressing yourself better as a singer?

It's probably a combination of the two. I've written lyrics that were quite personal before, certainly in the Like a Prayer album, and even stuff on *Bedtime Stories* felt very personal. But perhaps I was in a much more vulnerable place when I was recording this album and because I feel I've done a lot of growing and evolving spiritually and emotionally.

Is there a reason you were more vulnerable?

First of all, it was after doing *Evita*, which was really a challenging, emotionally exhausting, soul-searching couple of years for me. It also kind of gave me time off from being me.

You mean you were thinking about the role and the woman herself?

Exactly, and I got to view myself more objectively. Also I got pregnant, and the whole idea of giving birth and being responsible for another life put me in a place I'd never been before. I think I'm slowly shedding my layers. Where

other people have been obsessed with the idea that I am always reinventing myself, I'd rather think that I'm slowly revealing myself, my true nature. It feels like I'm just getting closer to the core of who I really am.

How about your film career? How pleased were you with the *Evita* experience?

Very pleased. It was very fulfilling on every level. In the end, it was great being able to learn to sing that score, and it was great working with [director] Alan Parker and [actors] Jonathan Pryce and Antonio Banderas. It was also great learning about this incredible woman.

What film are you doing next?

I'm supposed to be doing a movie called *Recycle Hazard*. It's a true story, set in the South, very Tennessee Williams-esque. It's a beautifully written story. We are trying to find a director right now. After that, I plan to go on tour, which will take me to the end of the year. Then I'll do [the film] *Chicago* with Goldie Hawn and director Nicholas Hytner.

What about the future? Do you think you ever want to get married again?

I don't know what I really think about marriage. I'm a bit confused on that issue.

But more children?

Oh, yes, I would love to have a brother or sister for Lola. I don't know when, but it'll happen. There's a song on the album called "Nothing Really Matters," and it was very much inspired by my daughter. It's just about realizing that when the day is done, the most important thing is loving people and sharing love, so of course I want more of that love in my life. (Los Angeles Times)

Culture club

By TRACY FISKE

The Jerusalem Foundation, in its endeavors to "improve the quality of life for all of Jerusalem's citizens," has left its signature throughout the capital on a host of educational, social and beautification projects. A top priority of the foundation is to create a rich cultural life in Jerusalem. This is the only way, it reasons, to keep its young people, in search of entertainment and the arts, from relocating to the bright lights and big city of Tel Aviv.

The Yellow Submarine was a project started seven years ago by The Jerusalem Foundation but has only come to the attention of the general public in the past two months, when it opened as a venue for live music.

Entering the Yellow Submarine, located in industrial Talpiot, is like stepping inside a warehouse art space in New York's Soho. The corridor is wide; the walls are spray-painted with graffiti murals. The concert hall resembles a loft, with open ceilings exposing track lighting and a slickly painted ventilation system.

Acoustics were obviously every bit as important as design in the conception of the hall. The walls are divided between light-blue metal panels backed by sound-cushioning material and yellow cinderblocks, which conjure up memories of grade-school auditoriums. All the materials and equipment, including an impressive sound board and large speakers, were brought in on the advice of special consultants.

The conscientious efforts by the Jerusalem Foundation were not in vain. A recent Saturday evening jazz session boasted a clear, resonant sound — not to mention a talented, lively quartet of local musicians — you just won't encounter in area pubs and night clubs.

"Jazz is an integral part of the program," says Atcha Bar, the manager of Yellow Submarine. "We've invested a lot in it. There isn't a place like it in the city. It's a chance to see real jazz in a quality setting."

YELLOW SUBMARINE was originally built as a music center for the city's youth. Subsidized almost entirely by the Jerusalem Foundation, it served to advance the local music scene by offering workshops and courses in genres such as jazz and classical music, while providing young artists with a well-equipped recording studio and rehearsal room. But Bar, a musician in his own right as well as the musical director for 1979 Eurovision winner Gali Atari, "racked his brains for a way to bring the music to the public."

He enlisted the talent of Moshe Lahav, a "freelancer" and veteran night-club owner, who is now responsible for booking the acts.

Jazz junkies can get a weekly fix of the good stuff on Saturday evenings from 9-30. Bands change weekly, reflecting a variety of styles such as Latin and fusion. Entrance is NIS 30.

But the music certainly doesn't stop there. Other nights of the week feature youth bands, famous Israeli singers such as Meir Ariel and Iggy Waxman, and performances geared for children. Ticket prices for bigger-name acts rarely exceed NIS 40 or NIS 50. "We do everything we can to make prices low so as not to bankrupt our customers," Lahav says.

While Yellow Submarine is an altogether different night spot from neighboring discotheques Ha'uman 17 and Campus, it does host the occasional dance party — but with an aesthetic spin. At one such event, colorful psychedelic shapes, dancing and contorting to the pulsating electronic music, were projected on to back-lit screens.

Lahav has also opened a cafe on the premises which operates only during performances. A waitress serves the tables inside the hall. Just outside the room are several candle-lit tables and an attractive wooden bar.

For the thirsty, Tuborg and Carlsberg beer are NIS 14, Corona NIS 20. Wine is NIS 15 a glass, NIS 60 a bottle. Local vodka, tequila, rum and brandy are NIS 15, and imported cognacs and whiskeys are NIS 22 to NIS 42. The menu includes salads and sandwiches, NIS 22 to NIS 30, as well as a few desserts for NIS 18.

"Yellow Submarine" was the first such venue to offer an Internet Web site," says Bar proudly. The site (www.yellowsubmarine.org.il) is in Hebrew and English and supplies visitors with a calendar of events, an artist-of-the-month profile, information about courses and workshops, and the convenience of ordering tickets on the Net. In a city short on first-rate live-performance venues, Yellow Submarine is music to my ears.

Yellow Submarine, 13 Rehov Rechavim, Jerusalem

Jazz on my mind

Jazz musicians Ofer and Iris Portugaly talk about their favorite CDs

Born in Israel, Ofer and Iris met and married in Boston, where they had been studying music after graduating from the University of California — Berkeley. They performed with a jazz quartet in Boston for several years. When they returned to Israel in 1991, they formed the Ofer and Iris Portugaly jazz quartet, which recently recorded its third album, *Before You Told Me*. Sharing similar tastes in most things, Ofer and Iris speak almost in one voice about their favorite jazz albums.

subtle and doesn't overpower the action or the characters. Hancock's the greatest. He's on the piano, Bobby McFerrin sings, Tony Williams is on drums, and Dexter Gordon's on saxophone."



4. Keith Jarrett at the Blue Note (1994)

"This is a set of six CDs, with Jarrett, Gary Peacock and John DeJohnette. It's like an abstract painting: it's full of color and you don't really understand what it is, but every element is under control. It's amazing how they follow each other, like a river that keeps flowing. You feel so relaxed when you hear it, yet it's very intense."

5. Nancy Wilson — *But Beautiful* (late 1960s)

"On this album, she sings jazz standards like 'Prelude to a Kiss' and 'In a Sentimental Mood' in such a modern style, it is the way I want to sing today. Her phrasing is very unique. She doesn't show off or try to impress. She really inspired me and influenced me to this day" [Iris].

Where there's a sixth choice, it would be John Coltrane's *Love Supreme*. The Portugals agree. —Ruth Beloff-Begun

1. Miles Davis — *The Complete Live at the Plugged Nickel* (1965)

"This recording was just released last year, even though the session was recorded at a club in New York in 1965. It was an amazing quintet: Herbie Hancock on piano, Tony Williams on drums, Wayne Shorter on saxophone, Ron Carter on bass, and Miles Davis on trumpet. They were so into the music, they were oblivious to the audience. The music is disorganized, the songs are too long, but it's unbelievable."

2. How Long Has This Been Going On? (Sarah Vaughan, 1975)

"This album's a masterpiece. She is an amazing singer. The rendition is tasteful, intelligent but great entertainment. There are wonderful dialogues between her and the drummer and her with the guitar. She sings standards like 'World on a String' and 'Body and Soul.'"

3. Soundtrack from *Round Midnight* (Herbie Hancock, 1985)

"There is some great music on this album. The songs go so well with the film. In the movie, the music guides the film but it is very

Hot tips

By DAHLIA SCHEINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Purim mania sweeps Tel Aviv's entertainment life, with the ingeniously limber and sleek Vertigo Dance Company performing a special holiday presentation — appropriate for children as well as adults — called *Power Dance* at 11:30 a.m. at the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theater in Neveh Tzedek. Call 510-5656. Further evidence of deference to

children is found at the Cinematheque's daytime showing of *The Great Muppet Caper* (1981) at 11 a.m., by puppet master for all ages Jim Henson. A full day of Oscar classics follows with *Amadeus* and *Ran*, topped off by a Purim-relevant showing of the caped crusader, *Batman* (the 1989 Michael Keaton version) at 10 p.m.

Raging public parties are served up tonight in grand jubilee style at the Sheraton Hotel, which is holding two theme parties. They are in the Kum Kum Restaurant (with the ingathering of the exiles as its theme) and in the Lobby Lounge (with a pioneering theme). They start at 7 p.m. and include all the Purim trappings: dance music, all-you-can-eat buffets, decorations, masks and groggers, champagne and wine, all for a mere NIS 150. Call 521-1033.

For the more mellow Purim palate, the Tel Aviv Museum's *Jazz From New York* series features Loston Harris, Gregory Hutchinson and Reginald Veal.

Jerusalem

King of Israeli comedy, pop, and the father of an endless stream of talented Banais, Yossi Banai performs at the Jerusalem Theater at 9 p.m. He will be accompanied by a promising combination of Eli Magen on double bass and Yossi Levy on acoustic guitar.

Habama Theater lends a taste of the Italian commedia dell'arte to Jerusalem's Purim parade this evening, with a premiere performance of a multidisciplinary show directed by Adriano Yurisevich, in which masks abound — *Slight Depressions in Shushan*. The entire parade is dressed in Italian this year, with costumes, dolls, masks and music all focused on an Italian theme. Habama's production is at 8:30 p.m. at the Leo Modell Hall, Gerard Behar Center. Call 679-9922 for details.

Not to be outdone, Beit Shmuel has an even more remote ethnic

attraction: the Susma band, from Ghana, plays tonight at the Purim party beginning at 11. On King David Street, near the YMCA.

And Points Beyond

Young, fresh and Latino, even when they sing in Hebrew, Iris and Ofer Portugaly (see interview) perform jazz at 9 p.m. at Yod Labanim in Ramatana as part of a series of shows this weekend to promote their new album. Call (09) 761-0549 for details.

Also on the international music theme, Hungary sends a medley of opera, theater and folklore performers to the Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. From Hungary with Love includes klezmer, folkloric music and dancing. Call 04-866-2244.

And back on the Purim beat, perhaps the most original activity prize goes to Kibbutz Magen in the northern Negev, which will be holding a Zoo Experience. For those unfamiliar with the expression, this involves tractor tours around the kibbutz that houses the

largest zoo in the area. (Flower-gazing is also highly recommended this week.) Call Ruti at (07) 998-4616.

Television

Catch the supremely elegant and witty *Wedding Banquet* tonight on Channel 2 at 11:10 p.m. The 1995 film shows Ang Lee before he got serious, such as in the soul-searching *The Ice Storm*. The film is a perfect alternative to *Four Rooms* on the Movie Channel at 10 p.m. Anything involving Quentin Tarantino is quirky, and this stars Tarantino favorite Tim Roth, as well as Jennifer Beals and the fetching Lily (I Shor Andy Warhol) Taylor.

Radio

Itzhak Perlman's latest album is broadcast at 6 p.m. on The Voice of Music. The new album features "Movie Serenade" and includes the Petersburg Symphony accompanying Perlman in film favorites.

Weekender Food & Drink



Crustworthy

By JOHN STARK and
LINDA WEST ECKHARDT

Rustic European-style breads have become quite popular. With our easy recipes, you can make these crusty loaves at home.

Bread preferences are changing. Bread is being redefined and reshaped. Perfect loaves are giving way to irregularly shaped ones with thick crusts and big holes. Rustic European-style breads are the hottest thing since, well, sliced bread.

"There's nothing like cutting off a big chunk of bread, getting a bottle of wine, some good cheese, and some olives, and sitting next to a river somewhere," says Carole Griffin, owner of the Continental Bakery and Cafe Chez Lulu in Birmingham, Alabama. "It's the most romantic thing you can do."

"Once you've tasted artisanal bread, you can't go back," she adds.

CIABATTA

4 cups bread flour
basic sponge, at room temperature (recipe below)
1 1/2 cups warm water (40°-45°)
2 tsp. nonfat dry milk
25 gr. yeast squares or granulated fresh yeast
1 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. cornmeal
2 Tbsp. bread flour

Lightly spoon 4 cups flour into dry measuring cups and level with a knife. Combine with sponge and next 4 ingredients (sponge through salt) in a food processor; process until dough forms a ball. Process 1 additional minute.

Turn dough out onto a floured surface (dough will be sticky and soft); divide dough in half. Working with one portion of dough at a time (cover the remaining dough to keep from drying), roll each portion into a 30 x 15 cm. rectangle.

Place dough on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet sprinkled with cornmeal. Taper ends of dough to form a slipper shape. Sprinkle 2 Tbsp. flour over loaves. Cover and let rise 30 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

Preheat oven to 220°. Uncover dough. Bake for 25 minutes or until loaves sound hollow when tapped. Remove from pan and cool on a wire rack. (Makes 2 loaves.)

BASIC SPONGE

This is the foundation for the ciabatta and the French country bread with currants and rosemary.

1 cup bread flour
2 tsp. sugar
25 gr. yeast squares or granulated fresh yeast
1/4 cup very warm water (49°-55°)

Lightly spoon flour into a dry measuring cup and level it with a knife. Place all the ingredients in a food processor and process for 1 minute or until well-blended. Spoon mixture into a medium bowl, cover and chill for 2-24 hours.

FRENCH COUNTRY BREAD WITH CURRANTS AND ROSEMARY

1 cup bread flour
1 cup whole-wheat flour
basic sponge, at room temperature (recipe above)

1/2 cup rye flour
1/4 cup regular oats
1/4 cup water
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup currants
2 Tbsp. bread flour
2 Tbsp. dried rosemary
cooking spray

Lightly spoon 1 cup bread flour and whole-wheat flour into dry measuring cups and level with a knife. Combine flours with sponge and next 4 ingredients (sponge through salt) in a food processor; process until dough forms a ball. Process dough 1 additional minute.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead in currants. 2 Tbsp. bread flour and rosemary.

Shape into a 22-cm. round loaf and place loaf on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Cover and let rise in a warm place (30°), free from drafts, 45 minutes or until doubled in bulk. Preheat oven to 190°.

Uncover loaf and make a tic-tac-toe slash 1/2 cm. deep across top of loaf using a sharp knife. Bake for 40 minutes or until loaf sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from pan and cool on a wire rack. (Serves 16.)

CLASSIC FRENCH BREAD

This bread is best when eaten the same day it's baked. If you have any left over, do as the French do: Use it to make French toast or a bread pudding.

25 gr. yeast squares or granulated fresh yeast
1 cup warm water (40°-45°)
3 cups bread flour
1 tsp. salt
cooking spray
1 Tbsp. water

1 large egg white
Dissolve the yeast in warm water in a small bowl and let it stand 5 minutes. Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups and level with a knife.

Place the flour and salt in a food processor and pulse 2 times or until blended. With the food processor on, slowly add yeast mixture through food chute and process until the dough forms a ball. Process for 1 additional minute. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead lightly 4-5 times.

Place dough in a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning to coat top. Cover dough and let it rise in a warm place (30°), free from drafts, 45 minutes or until doubled in bulk.

Punch dough down, and shape into a 15-cm. round loaf. Place loaf on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Cover dough and let rise 30 minutes or until doubled in bulk. Preheat oven to 230°.

Uncover dough, and make 3 diagonal cuts 1 1/2 cm. deep across top of loaf using a sharp knife. Combine 1 Tbsp. water and egg white, and brush mixture over top of loaf. Bake at 230° for 20 minutes or until loaf sounds hollow when tapped. (Serves 12.)

To make a baguette: Let the French bread dough rise once. Punch dough down, and roll into a 45 x 22 cm. rectangle on a lightly floured surface. Roll up the dough starting at the longer edge, pressing down firmly to eliminate any air pockets, then pinch seam and edges to seal.

Cover the dough, let rise and bake according to French bread instructions.

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By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

Say cheese (good)

My mother never bought processed cheese, always claiming that it was too fatty, contained too many additives and that (American) Jewish people don't buy it. She might think again if she encountered Mor Gad, Gad Dairies new spreadable processed cheese, which would be delicious on crackers.

It is the processed cheese with the lowest amount of fat (5 percent) on the market, but a lot of sodium (975 mg.). The 100-gr. container has only 140 calories, 16.5 gr. protein, 5 gr. fat, 3.5 gr. cholesterol and 580 mg. calcium. Although the label says that it has "aromatic and flavoring ingredients," Gad insists that they are natural. A 100-gr. package sells for NIS 4.45.

Unidentified Breaded Foods (poor to OK)

Why are Israelis so enchanted by breaded foods? And why must the food industry make all those breaded foods that same yellow-brown color, with the same consistency and the same taste? Whether it's schnitzel, vegetable patties or anonymous fish, they all taste the same. I call them Unidentified Breaded Foods.

If your children eat meals at school, they're no doubt served these UBFs several times a week. How can you bear to serve them to your kids when they get home?

How do you tell the difference between them? If it's sweet and floury, it's corn. If it's gray, it's a meat substitute. If it's green and

floury, it's probably got pieces of broccoli and peas inside. But they really are all interchangeable. Whether they are made by Tivall, Soglowek, Sunfrost or another company, they all taste basically the same.

Yes, they are convenient for the parent. No, they are not real food. They are breaded stomach fillers which stunt your and your children's ability to understand and appreciate flavors.

Last night we tried Sunfrost's new Rondelim, onion-ring type products enriched with vitamins and iron and that contain no MSG, food coloring or cholesterol. They come in corn, mixed vegetable, spinach, broccoli and soy flavors; you can identify them by their colors, but it's difficult to tell the difference between them by taste. Of the three types we tried, two tasted like breaded mix. The only one we found truly edible was the sesame-breaded soy.

They are good for a snack after school or before dinner, but I wouldn't consider them supper. All the flavors are parve and, except for the broccoli, are certified kosher by Badatz. They are sold in 600 gr. packages for NIS 21.90.

Appropo cakes (OK)

If you like having cake at Appropo cafes, you now can have Appropo cakes at home. The new line includes cheesecake with white chocolate topping; Nutcracker, a chocolate torte with nut and creme filling; Limonina, a lemon meringue with white chocolate creme; and Chocochino, a chocolate torte with chocolate creme and brandy, coffee, nuts and cappuccino liqueur. Certified kosher by the Ra'anana Rabbinate (a kosher lemeshadrin line also is produced once a week), the cakes sell for NIS 120 each.

We tried the Chocochino and found it all right for a special treat, but too sweet to serve oth-

erwise. I think I'd rather bake a cake at home for a fraction of the cost. It might not be as fancy, but there's nothing like the taste of homemade.

Manuka honey

(very good-excellent)

Next time you're refilling your medicine cabinet, you might want to consider adding a jar of Manuka honey. In addition to its rich flavor and unusual consistency, Manuka honey is considered to have more antibacterial activity than most other types of honey. This means that it can be used as an aid to help chills and ill's pass more quickly and as an mild antibacterial agent on cuts and bruises. NIS 49.90 for 500 gr.

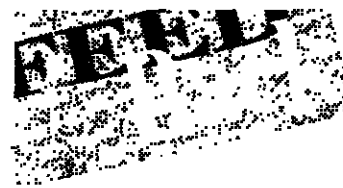
No-kick beer (good)

It tastes good, but it won't make you tipsy. Claushaler non-alcoholic beer, manufactured in Germany by Binding Brauerei, is the most popular beer of its kind in Europe, having captured 40 percent of the non-alcoholic beer market.

Claushaler is three times richer in carbohydrates than regular beer, and contains 40% less calories. A 330-ml. bottle of Maccabi contains 158 calories, while the same amount of Claushaler contains only 98. Available in supermarkets, pubs and restaurants, a 330-ml. bottle sells for NIS 4.40.

Eden by Internet

The renowned Gault-Millau restaurant guide now can be found on-line at the Eden Mineral Water Internet site (<http://www.meyeden.co.il/home>). There's also information about hiking in Israel, an index of water and sport activities and a watercolor painting contest. The Israeli Gault-Millau guide has 486 restaurants listed by location, type of food, etc. Plus you can find out everything you ever wanted to know about mineral water.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Regarding Edna Gamaroff's inquiry for a recipe for yogurt bread (Feedback, January 1), I have found my recipe, which was used in South Africa 20 years ago.

YOGURT BREAD

4 cups whole-wheat flour
1 tsp. salt
1 heaping tsp. baking soda
1 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 container yogurt

Mix everything together and bake at 200°C for 1 hour.

- Dora Schwabsky, Herzliya

Thanks for your recipe. It sounds to me like a variation on Irish soda bread and I'm surprised it doesn't contain an egg. Below is my recipe for Irish soda bread.

IRISH SODA BREAD

2 1/2-2 1/2 cups of whole-wheat

flour (half white flour may be substituted)

1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. ground coriander
1 egg
1 Tbsp. honey
1 cup yogurt or eshel

Mix the wet and dry ingredients separately and then add the wet ingredients to the dry. Form into a loaf and slash the top of the bread and bake it on a greased cookie sheet in a preheated 190°C oven for 25-30 minutes.

Which vegetables contain the most nutritive value?
- Alfred Katar, Netanya

Leafy greens like spinach, Swiss chard, arugula and dark lettuces (such as romaine) contain fiber and a carotenoid called lutein, which is considered to be helpful in lowering the risk of blindness due to macular degeneration, a deterioration of the retina. Low in calories, green leafy vegetables also have iron, potassium, vitamin C and carotenoids.

Another important group is the deep orange and yellow vegetables, like sweet potatoes and carrots. They are important sources of beta-carotene, which lowers the risk of cancer, including colon,

lung and others.

When I was a teenager in Poland, usually the family had a place for breakfast on Saturday with coffee. Now I am 80 and craving this again. Placek is a yeast dough with sweet crumbs on top. There used to be a bakery named Lodzianka in Tel Aviv which baked it once a week. I have searched many cookbooks but couldn't find a recipe for it. You are my last resource.

- Joseph Stevens, Tel Aviv

I called food expert Tova Aran who was born in Poland and who ran the now-defunct Tnuva Cooking School for many years. She remembers her grandmother making placek without crumbs, but with cinnamon and sugar on top.

Perhaps another reader can help find the recipe.

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted via The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: phyllisfood@jpost.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Clue in on California

By NOGA TARNOPOLSKY

California has managed to establish itself so convincingly in our firmament of wine-making Meccas that it is not uncommon to hear it and France or Italy referred to interchangeably. It is difficult, in consequence, to remember that not very long ago - 20 years, perhaps - California was known, in terms of wine-making, fundamentally as the source of cheap and watery jug wines, in particular, of light, inexpensive, and thin Chablis. The two names most closely associated with these harvests (and with the California wine industry as a whole) were the names of two families of Italian immigrant winemakers - Gallo and Mondavi - who managed to create million-dollar empires by mass producing mild and low-priced wines.

As was to be expected, as the American palate for wine grew more sophisticated, numerous smaller wineries - some nevertheless huge, like Chateau St. Jean and Ravenswood - began offering alternatives to satisfy this newly demanding and discerning public. Gallo and Mondavi, while retaining economic powerhouses and still occupying the leading edge of the market, lost their cachet, and became, in the public imagination, the embodiments of low quality mass production. For the last few years both houses have engaged in efforts to plant new varieties of grapes and upgrade both the quality and the images of their wines, while not giving up on the lion's share of the market. Gallo, concluding that nothing sold under its own label would be viewed as a superb wine, has fashioned its revolution by establishing a family owned boutique

winery, run by one of the granddaughters of an original Gallo brother, to produce and sell the new fine varieties.

Taking a different approach, Mondavi, has simply added several new series under its own label, and is now well-established as a producer not only of its own high-level, California wines, but has also entered into joint ventures in with wine makers in France, Chile and Italy. The result is a creature that is at once an international conglomerate, a California powerhouse, and a fine boutique winery, the outcome of which is not a small amount of confusion for the consumer.

When you purchase a Mondavi wine these days it is difficult to know what you are getting into. Many of its wines, in fact, are extraordinary, notably, some of those presented at a recent Tel Aviv tasting of the Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1994 and the Napa Valley Chardonnay Reserve 1995. But buyer beware: acquire a Mondavi Woodbridge Chardonnay 1997, and you will find yourself with a moderately priced imported wine which, lamentably, is almost tasteless. In other words, while diversifying both internationally and in terms of quality, Mondavi, perhaps saddled with low quality but enormous estates of vines, is still producing those wines which gave it a reputation for mediocrity. Those wines most definitely worthwhile to buy are either the Reserves, which in Israel are very costly, or those wines labeled by District (Oakville, Cameros, etc) or the Napa Valley series.

CLARIFICATION: The Millennium wine mentioned last week is a Carmel wine created at the initiative of the magazine Al HaShulchan

July 21/2001



Then and now: (Above) The Burma Road was created 50 years ago as an emergency bypass route to Jerusalem forged by the Palmah to circumvent the Arab siege. (Below) On the western stretch of the Burma Road, between Mesilat Zion and the Harel Junction, silhouettes of vehicles are a reminder of the convoys that brought food and supplies to the city.



Weekender Travel

Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro

The road to independence

We had just settled down to hear our guide tell us about the sweeping view before us when she was interrupted by voices. Seconds later, an unkempt young man dressed in khaki and carrying an old-fashioned Czech rifle leaped out of the bushes and literally fell at our feet.

The site was Mishlat 21, a crucial lookout point above the highway to Jerusalem, part of the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Park. In broken Hebrew with a Russian accent, the young man told us that he came off the boat a few weeks earlier, only to be sent immediately to defend Jerusalem in the War of Independence.

As he was telling his story, he was joined by a young woman, also in khaki. The conversation between the two began with a comic interlude over who would prepare the coffee, but it soon evolved into a more serious discussion, as the young woman began to speak of her boyfriend who had been killed the week before.

The dramatization was a part of one of the regular tours offered this year by the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel (SPNI) to mark the 50th anniversary of the state. The tour follows the Burma Road, the emergency bypass route to Jerusalem forged by the Palmah to circumvent the Arab siege. The road

was of course named for the jungle route built to carry supplies to China between 1937 and 1939.

As we made our way by jeep along the rocky dirt path, we noted that the almond trees were still in bloom and there were bright patches of deep-red wild tulips, as well as the more common anemones and poppies.

From our vantage point, we could see the towers of Tel Aviv

was strangling the Jewish population of Jerusalem.

On the western stretch of the Burma Road, between Mesilat Zion and the Harel Junction, there are metal silhouette figures of men, vehicles and animals, a reminder of the original convoys that carried goods along the road.

The road was considered so essential that the chief rabbi gave permission to work on it on Shabbat. Today, just 50 years after the creation of the Burma Road, there are at least half a dozen people claiming to have been the first to use it.

For those who want to visit the area on their own, the eastern section of the Burma Road, which begins between Moshav Shorsh and Moshav Beit Meir, is well marked, but the road is not suitable for private cars. It is possible to get most of the way to Mishlat 21 by private car by following the sign to the Yitzhak Rabin Park near Sha'ar Hagai from the highway to Beit Shemesh. You'll see the sign for the turnoff on the left side of the road. If you turn right at that point, you can drive along the western section of the Burma Road.

You can also visit the road on one of the organized tours the SPNI offers on Fridays as well as Shabbat.

For information, call 1-800-280380.



and the white patch that is quickly becoming the new metropolitan area of Modi'in. But most of all we could see how easy it would have been for anyone holding such a position to stop traffic along the highway. Below us, we could also see some of the remains of the armored cars which had been left at the side of the highway. They have been made into memorials to those who were killed in their effort to break through the siege which

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Weekender Leisure



(Left) Alicante, Spain, 1933: One of the many early classics of Henri Cartier-Bresson; (Above) Cartier-Bresson's Pont de l'Europe, Paris, 1932, illustrating the 'decisive moment': The gap between the heel and its reflection captures the 'one moment at which the elements in motion are in balance'; (Below) Cartier-Bresson in Jerusalem, 1967, fixing 'a geometric pattern without which the photograph would have been both formless and lifeless.'

Cartier-Bresson: Invisible photographer

In interviews with photographers I often ask if anyone in particular has influenced their work. Invariably, the name Henri Cartier-Bresson pops up, together with his famous phrase "the decisive moment." Usually I detect a tone of respect, even reverence, as though the man were long dead. But the legendary French photographer is still very much alive. He's 90 this year, and to mark the occasion, exhibitions of his photography and drawings, and showings of his films are being held in London and Paris.

Most great photographers are lucky to have even one picture that is so well known that it can be called a photographic icon. Cartier-Bresson has taken several timeless images that are not only instantly recognized, but also synonymous with his name.

The Time-Life Library of Photography describes Cartier-Bresson as "an unobtrusive man in banker's shoes, with rimless glasses and quick gray eyes." Ironically, Cartier-Bresson hates to be photographed himself. With his small size and retiring nature, he is himself the nearly invisible man, the perfect picture-taker.

Cartier-Bresson was born into a textile-manufacturing family near Paris in 1908. He studied art in Paris and Cambridge, England. Strongly influenced by the Surrealists early on, he embraced their ideas concerning the nature of chance and coincidence as the underlying principle of his photography. "There is one moment at which the elements in motion are in balance. Photography must seize upon this moment," he said.

In 1930, on a visit to the Ivory Coast, where he worked as a hunter and nearly died of fever, Cartier-Bresson took a few pictures with his childhood Brownie box camera. But he soon realized that he needed "a quicker instrument" to record the "scars of the world."

Back in France, he discovered the new German-made Leica. "For me, photography with a small camera like the

Leica is an instant drawing." His early pictures of France, Italy and Spain from 1932-3 became instant classics. In 1934 he went to Mexico, and on his way home spent time in New York where he developed an interest in film-making. From 1936 to 1939 he assisted Jean Renoir, the great French film director. When World War II broke out, he joined the French army, and was captured by the Germans in 1940. He spent three years in a POW camp, before escaping on his fourth attempt. Making his way back to Paris, he worked for the Resistance until Liberation. In the immediate wake of the war, he took one of his most powerful pictures, the telling instant of a refugee exposing a Gestapo informer.

On Camera By David Brauner

Cartier-Bresson returned to New York in 1947. There he visited the Museum of Modern Art, and was surprised to find a "posthumous retrospective" of his work. "It was then I knew I'd arrived," he's reported to have said. The organizers believed he had died in the war.

In 1947 he formed the Magnum photo agency with Robert Capa, Chim Seymour and George Rodger. Working for Magnum and also Life magazine, he traveled the world. His work in the '50s and '60s, particularly in India and behind the Iron Curtain, further enhanced his reputation.

He came to Israel in 1967. His groundbreaking book of photographs and text (which he really did not want to write), *The Decisive Moment*, appeared in 1952. The quotation which supplies the book's title reads: "A velvet hand, a hawk's eye - these we should all have. If the shutter was released at the decisive moment, you have fixed a geometric pattern without which the photograph would have been both formless and lifeless." Although the term "decisive moment" is now irrevocably linked with Cartier-Bresson, according to the photo historian Michael Braive in *The Era of Photography*, he borrowed the phrase from the 17th-century

French cardinal Jean de Retz, who said, "There is nothing in this world which does not have its decisive moment."

Throughout his long career Cartier-Bresson's technique remained deceptively simple. To be invisible to the people he photographed he covered the shiny metal parts of his camera with black tape, and sometimes wrapped his camera in a handkerchief to make it even more inconspicuous. He describes his camera as the "extension of my eye." His only camera was "one battered, little Leica" and a standard 50 mm. that sees the same as the human eye.

Arguably the most influential photographer of our century, he is also modest: "Think about the picture before and after, never during. If you miss a picture, you've missed it. So what? And compassionate: 'We must respect the atmosphere which surrounds the human being.' And tireless: 'With me the camera is a kind of magnet. You want to catch the whole world in that little box, all the significant details that add up to life.' But above all it is the man's honesty, his fidelity to himself and his work, that have never wavered. He has never allowed a print to be altered or cropped in the darkroom. 'The picture is good or not the moment it was caught in the camera.'"

Since officially retiring in the early '70s, he has devoted the last 25 years to his first loves, painting and drawing. He looks back on his life and sees it "in slices of one-hundredth of a second, spinning films out of myself like a silk worm." He still takes the odd photograph. In a recent BBC interview Henri Cartier-Bresson said, "I never take pictures; pictures take me."

London's Hayward Gallery is showing "Henri Cartier-Bresson: Europeans" until April 5.

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: [moris@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:morris@mail.biu.ac.il) (writing "for David" in the subject line) or fax 02-563-7792 or do Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.



Bridge It's not if you win or lose...

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
East-West vulnerable

North
♠ A Q 8 6 2
♥ 5
♦ Q 5 2
♣ J 7 6

West East
♠ J 9 7 5 3 ♠ 4
♥ 9 7 ♥ Q 8 3 2
♦ A K 10 8 ♦ J 9 6 4 3
♣ 4 3 ♣ 10 9 5

South (you)
♠ K 10
♥ A K J 10 6 4
♦ 7
♣ A K 8 2

South West North East
1♥ pass 1♠ pass
3♣ pass 4♣ pass
4NT pass 5♦ pass
6♣ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♦K

One of the pleasures of bridge (or any game) is to play perfectly. Often this achievement will be missed if attention is paid only to the result.

Suppose the wrong line of play is taken by declarer, but the lie of cards is so favorable that even poor play would have succeeded. For example, you have a choice of playing for a 3-3 split or a finesse. The 3-3 split is approximately a 37 percent chance while the finesse is 50%. If you choose the 3-3 split and it works, you've taken the wrong play but succeeded anyway.

The reverse is also true. Suppose you play a hand correctly but the cards are lying poorly for you. Your partner may be upset with you at the end of the deal because all he sees is the result: You went one down. A good partner, however, will look more deeply into the hand and realize that you played the hand well but were simply unlucky. "Beautifully played," says partner, despite the result.

Today's deal is from the Mixed Pairs championship at the Israeli International Bridge Festival, held two weeks ago in Tel Aviv. The deal demonstrates a hand played perfectly, although it wasn't necessary on this particular occasion. The East-West cards have been changed from the original to demonstrate the point.

The male players who placed first and second in the event both declared the contract of six clubs by South. At one table was runner-up Mark Feldman of New York City, and at another table was the

eventual winner, Mehil Ozdil, of Istanbul. Both made 12 tricks for good scores because very few pairs reached the slam. But their enjoyment of the deal was not in the result - it was in their technical prowess.

If you would like to test yourself, consider how you would play a contract of six clubs after West begins with the king of diamonds and continues with the ace of diamonds. Remember, we are looking for the best line of play against many different East-West combinations, not just a line of play that works on this layout.

Feldman and Ozdil both came up with similar solutions, with one slight variation. On the second round of diamonds, you ruff (good play) and then consider how you will handle the hand if (A) the trumps divide evenly (3-2) or (B) trumps divide poorly (4-1).

Let's look at Feldman's line of play first. He cashed one high trump from the South hand and led his remaining low one toward dummy. If trumps had split 3-2, his plan was to play two top spades, ending in dummy, and ruff a spade in his hand (hoping for a 4-2 or 3-3 split in spades). Then he would lead the ace of hearts and a low heart to be ruffed low in dummy. If all went well, he would then draw the last trump and claim.

Let's now go to Ozdil's table. He improved on Feldman's line of play very slightly. He cashed the king of spades at trick three. Then he led a high trump and a low trump to dummy, as Feldman had done. If trumps behaved (3-2 split), he was prepared to discard the 10 of spades on the queen of diamonds and ruff a spade. On some layouts, when the spades are 5-1 (as in today's diagram), he would still make the hand while his counterpart, Feldman, would go down.

Now let's go to the practical side. On the actual layout (not seen here), the trumps were 4-1 so both players, after two rounds of trumps revealed the bad split, reverted to plan B. They led a third round of trumps to the South hand and returned to dummy in spades to draw the last trump. When spades were 3-3, the slam was cold and no further plan was necessary. If the spades had not divided 3-3, both declarers would have tried a heart finesse, playing a heart to the jack, in the hope that the queen was with East. Indeed, that also would have worked!

Matthew Granovetter can be reached by e-mail at Gran@Nevision.net.il

Chess Beaten at blitz

By NIGEL SHORT

It was the crew of an American whaler who discovered Jimmy Adams, the sole surviving mutineer from the *Bounty*. He had endured 18 long years on the well-provisioned island of Pitcairn in the company of Tahitian beauties - punishment indeed for his dastardly crime.

In Groningen last month, as the ranks of grandmasters dwindled daily during the first-ever World Championship knockout tournament, it appeared for a moment that another Adams, Michael this time, would be last to remain.

The spoils were more pecuniary than sensual in nature, though amply sufficient to induce a fight to the death. In the end it was Vishy Anand who came through when he beat Mickey at blitz, the chess equivalent of a penalty shoot-out.

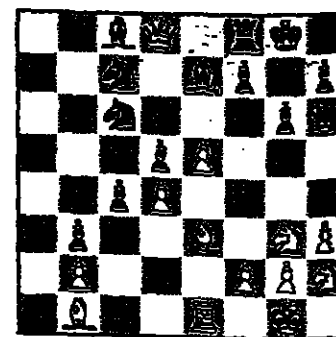
All in all though it was a brilliant performance from Mickey. In particular, he must be proud of his comeback against the Russian champion Peter Svidler, when almost everyone had written him off.

He needed to win this one to stay in the march.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 0-0 9. h3 Nd7. Given that Adams' opening repertoire can under no circumstances be described as razor sharp, his policy here should be commended. First Black seeks to obtain a playable position and only then looks to unbalance it. 10. d4 Nb6 this was more popular in the 1950s. 11. Nb2. In a later round I used the subtle move 11. a3 with success. 12. exd4 13. exd4 Nb4 13. Nh1 c5 14. a3 Nc6 15. Ng3 c4. A novelty. Previously Black players had attempted to equalize by exchanging on c4. Mickey instead puts his trust in his queenside majority, a good idea under the

circumstances. 16. Bc2 d5 17. e5 a5 18. Be3 b4 19. axb4 axb4 20. Rxa8 Nxa8 21. Nh2? Perhaps I am too harsh in my criticism here but this does not look right. 21. Nf5 was possible as was the prophylactic 22. b3 which holds up Black's pawn advance. Anyway, Adams has achieved his objective of creating a difficult and messy position. 21...h3 22. Bb1 Ne7 23. Qh5? g6 24. Qh6

Black: (Adams) to play



White: (Svidler)

24...Re8 24...Nxd4! was already possible e.g. 25. Nh5 (25. Bxd4? Bg5) 25...Nd6 26. Ng4 Ne8 and despite the apparent danger White has no clear way to continue. 25. Ng4 Bxg4 26. hxg4 Bf8 27. Qh3 Ne6 28. Ne2 Ne1! Otherwise 29. f4 and f5 will cause a catastrophe. 29. Rd1 fxe5 30. dxe5 Qa5! White has been pushed on to the defensive. Svidler, who is normally very resilient in such circumstances, abruptly collapses. 31. Qd3? Nxe5 32. Qxd5 Qxd5 33. Rxd5 Nxd4. White's bishops are no compensation for the pawn deficit. His pieces and the vital b2 pawn are targets. 34. Ne3 Be7 35. Nd1 Ra8! 36. Be4 Ra1. The pin on the knight is decisive. The b2 pawn will go with it the game. White resigned.

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Second-hand news

Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman

WIZO, Ezrat Nashim, Keren Klita and other organizations long ago discovered that they could add to their coffers by running second-hand clothing stores or holding occasional bazaars with good-quality used clothing as the main attraction.

The Jerusalem branch of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel adopted the concept by accident.

It all started with the AACI's annual fund-raising phonathon, said Helen Katz, AACI Jerusalem's director of development and fund-raising.

When 91-year-old Barya Fagin was contacted for a donation, she declined to give money, but offered her jewelry instead.

"Take it and sell it," she said. "You'll get several thousand dollars."

When Katz saw the jewelry, she was reluctant to put it up for auction, fearing that it might not fetch its true value.

Remembering that people were willing to pay relatively high prices for quality goods at AACI yard sales, Katz got together with some other AACI activists, and after discussing the best means of selling the jewelry, they came up with the idea of a boutique.

Several of the AACI's members are affluent women who buy their clothes from top designers or from stores which stock high-quality men's and women's.

A boutique committee was set up, and its members began passing the word around among relatives, friends and acquaintances.

Anyone willing to part with designer clothes was encouraged to do their bit for AACI. Members



The AACI boutique team had great fun trying on the garments, but agreed not to buy anything for themselves until the boutique was officially open.

of the boutique committee contributed garments and accessories from their own closets. Committee member Chana Lapid, a Bank Hapoalim executive, persuaded some of her banking colleagues to deposit gently worn garments with her. Connie Beinhaker, another member of the committee, got a neighborhood dry cleaner to clean 50 garments free of charge.

Many of the other garments arrived complete with dry cleaning tags, indicating their owners had taken the trouble to have them cleaned before giving them away.

Among the Jerusalem socialites who contributed clothes were Susan Fried, Michal Halevi, Pamela Loyal, Randy Hanegbi, Libby Werthan, Amanda Weiss, Lily Silver, Barya Borowski, Adele Warshawsky, Vera Golovinsky and others who preferred anonymity.

Labels in the combined collection included those of Oleg Cassini, whose most famous client was Jacqueline Kennedy; Perry

Ellis, Valentino, Liz Claiborne, Anne Klein, Tahari, Ann Taylor, Jaeger, Oscar Max, Martha's of Palm Beach & New York and Joseph Ho. Altogether, there were some 500 garments plus jewelry and accessories, including Walter Steiger, Stuart Weitzman and Bruno Magli shoes.

The piece de résistance of Werthan's impressive discards was a mint coat in mint condition. Golovinsky's exquisite cast-offs drew gasps of admiration as they were unpacked.

"Vera walked in with a collection of the likes of which I've never seen," recalled Katz on the evening before the boutique was due to open.

The boutique team had great fun trying on the garments, but had agreed not to buy anything for themselves until the boutique was officially open.

SETTING PRICES was problematic. Committee members visited

resale stores throughout the capital to see what the average prices were for coats, suits, jackets, dresses, sweaters and pants sold on consignment. Then they undercut those prices to make the AACI boutique more attractive.

In the final analysis, prices were more or less uniform in each category, and with the exception of the mint coat, very few garments cost more than NIS 150.

Seventeen-year-old Meital Shimshian found success at the boutique. She wanted a fancy, grown-up dress for a family bar mitzva, but didn't want to spend a lot of money on something that she might not wear again.

She looked absolutely gorgeous in the NIS 150 velvet bodiced gown she chose. The workmanship and the quality of the fabric indicated that the dress must have cost at least 10 times as much when new.

She also tried on a superbly cut fuchsia pink Guy Laroche suit, which was really too sophisticated for her even though she looked wonderful in it.

The suit was priced at NIS 200, but it was a slow sell because few of the people who eyed it several times had the figure to go with it. One had to be reed slim to get into the sequined black lace sheath which originated in Palm Beach and found its way to the Holy City. At NIS 200, it was the bargain of the year.

The woman who eventually bought it had thought to wear it to her daughter's wedding, and to make sure that no one else could put a claim on it before her daughter arrived to check it out, she wore it.

She needn't have worried. None of the other buyers were anywhere near her proportions.

The daughter thought that this particularly sexy number was inappropriate, but the woman was persuaded by a friend to buy it anyway.

THE BOUTIQUE was a something-for-everyone enterprise, with trendy outfits that were less

than a season old and breathtaking vintage gowns which dated back half a century. Dr. Armen Saltz, for example, donated her graduation gown, created sometime in the 1940s when skirts were full and romantic.

Marva Perrin, AACI's supremely elegant national director of development, rearranged all the racks to create a real boutique ambience.

In fact, as far as she's concerned, "second-hand" is a verboten expression.

"The word is resale," she insisted. Was the venture a success? Absolutely.

In fact, the sale went over so well, that buyers and would-be buyers suggested that the next time, the stock be expanded to include men's and children's clothing.

The tentative date for the next AACI boutique is some time in September.

Meanwhile, some diplomatic wives are thinking of setting up a swap shop. Because they lead such intense social lives, their fashion needs are greater than those of most other women. They can't be seen in the same garment more than three times, and sometimes that's two too many.

But some of them feel that if they have a warehouse in which they can all store their clothes, they can come and take a few garments each week and bring them back later.

Enhanced by different accessories and worn by different people, the garments will take on a different appearance. The warehouse will save all its members a lot of money, and if each one pays a symbolic membership fee, they'll even have enough to employ someone to make sure that the clothes are properly hung and displayed.

Actually, any group of friends can organize a clothing warehouse. Nearly all of us have clothing that we don't want to wear, but we still don't want to give away. Sharing a warehouse with a group would enable us to visit with our old clothes without having them clutter up our space.

Joe Weiss 150

27/11/98

Thursday,
March 12, 1998

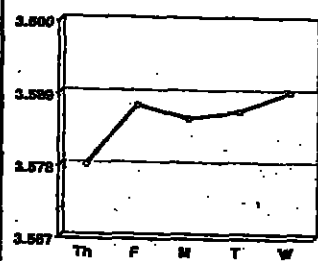
BUSINESS & FINANCE

15

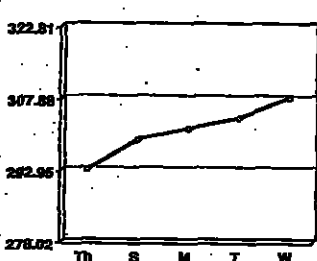
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

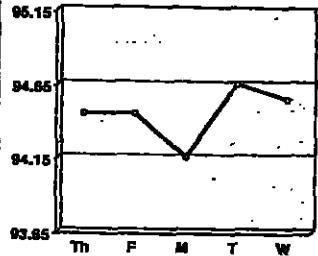


MAOF INDEX



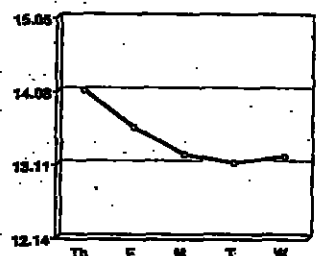
GOLD

\$ per ounce

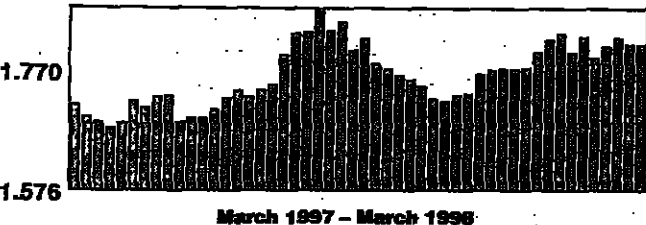


OIL

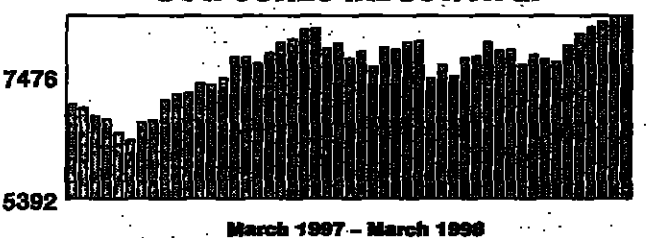
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Lauder in talks for 25% Ma'ariv stake

Ronald Lauder, heir to the Estee Lauder cosmetics firm, is conducting preliminary negotiations with Ofer Nimrod over entering into Ma'ariv Holdings as a strategic investor. If a deal is concluded, Lauder will acquire, by way of allocation, up to 25% of the shares of Ma'ariv Holdings, at a value higher than the company's \$115 million market price. It is assessed that Ofer Nimrod, controlling shareholder in Ma'ariv Holdings, wants to bring a strategic investor with financial wherewithal into the company, and Lauder meets both requirements. Ma'ariv Holdings yesterday successfully completed a public bonds issue, raising NIS 245 million. *Globes*

Bezeq security sets volume record

The turnover yesterday in the new bond of Bezeq Israel Telecom reached NIS 132 million. This was the largest volume ever recorded in a single security. The number of deals made in Bezeq bond also set a new record with 816 deals completed. Total turnover in Bezeq securities was a high NIS 202m. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Pharmos gets two FDA approvals

The US Food and Drug Administration has given final approval to two drugs of Pharmos Corp. on the same day. The company announced that the FDA has approved its application for Lotemax and Alex eye drugs turning it into the first Israeli company to receive FDA approval for more than one ethical drug. Both drugs will be marketed by eye care producer Bausch & Lomb. In a statement the Pharmos said that it expects significant revenues in 1998 for the first time since the company was founded 6 years ago. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Tadiran Electronics to make \$4m. expansion

The Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center approved 13 projects worth \$6.5 million this week, including a \$4 million investment to expand the Tadiran Electronic Systems plant in Holon. *Nina Gilbert*

Discount warns of sharp profit decline

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israel Discount Bank yesterday warned that fourth quarter net profits are expected to fall sharply from the third quarter. In a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange the country's third largest bank attributed the decline to falling income from finance activities and a rise in provisions for doubtful debt. The bank's spokeswoman declined to comment on the report, which came two weeks before the release of the annual report. Analysts said that the drop came as no

surprise and that it does not indicate that a similar decrease may be presented by other large banks.

"For a long time Discount has been less efficient and less profitable when compared with other banks," said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities. "The net return on equity of Discount is almost 50 percent lower than that presented by other banks."

Industry sources said that the bank's management may be interested in presenting bad reports. "This is the first annual report signed by Ari Mientkavich (Discount new chairman) and he can

always say that this is what he inherited from his predecessors," said one source. "From now on the results can only improve and he can attribute the success to himself."

Tsur said that the bank's management can also use the report to put pressure on employees, who have recently intensified a labor dispute in anticipation of a new wage agreement. "The power struggle in the bank is hurting its activities and in such a competitive market Discount might lose clients," Tsur said.

He added that the report might also be affected by high provisions for bad debt. "The bank can decide how much money it

wants to allocate for doubtful loans. It is worrisome however that the bank said that income fell as well."

The rise in provision for doubtful debt can also be due to a relatively high number of loans that Discount gave to real estate companies. Declining property prices are seen as a major risk to the banking industry and the Bank of Israel has issued regulations limiting the exposure of banks to real estate companies.

Investors, however, were not worried by the warning and the bank's share gained 0.3 percent yesterday after surging 4% on Tuesday.

Japan's central bank raided

TOKYO (Bloomberg)

Prosecutors raided Japan's central bank yesterday and arrested a senior official suspected of accepting bribes in return for advance information on monetary policy. The raid is the first in the Bank of Japan's 116-year history and is the latest in a series of investigations by Tokyo prosecutors aimed at the nation's "iron triangle" of business, government and bureaucracy credited with creating the Japanese postwar economic miracle.

Bank of Japan Gov. Yasuo Mutsushita, facing calls for his resignation, said he wants to see through an internal investigation to regain public trust in the central bank.

"As head of the central bank, I bear the heaviest responsibility for today's arrest, and I will consider my options bearing this in mind," Mutsushita said.

Arrested was Yasuyuki Yoshizawa, 42, director of the central bank's capital markets division. Prosecutors said they suspect Yoshizawa accepted entertainment from banks to provide them with information about the bank's daily money market operations.

The dollar rose against the yen as the arrest tarnished the central bank's credibility to maintain stability in financial markets, traders said.

"The raid reveals how corrupt Japan's financial system is," said Hirokazu Note, chief trader at Sumitomo Bank Ltd.

The US currency rose to 129.15 yen in midday New York trading yesterday, from 127.38 on Tuesday.

"These guys are supposed to manage the economy, and under siege of prosecutors they are not going to be able to pay as much attention as they should," said John Neuffer, a senior research fellow at Mitsui Marine Research Institute Co.

The central bank's money market operations, including sales and purchases of commercial bills, treasury bills and commercial paper, are one of its main policy



Tokyo prosecutors head to Bank of Japan headquarters yesterday for a raid. (Reuters)

tools, along with the discount rate and direct loans to banks. Commercial banks can guarantee profits in money markets with advance information of the bank's policy.

Prosecutors also suspect central bank officials leaked information from the bank's closely watched "tankan" business survey, reports said.

Mutsushita said the central bank will discipline any of its officials found to have accepted perks or entertainment from financial companies.

Prosecutors said Yoshizawa received 3.18 million yen (\$25,000) in entertainment from Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. and 1.12m yen from Sanwa Bank Ltd. between May 1993 and May 1997.

Government officials suggested Mutsushita may have to step down from his post to take responsibility for Yoshizawa's arrest. Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga told parliament yesterday he couldn't comment on whether Mutsushita should resign, though he said "those who are involved should be mindful of their heavy responsibility."

Official denies plan to shut Jordan trade office

By NINA GILBERT

The Industry and Trade Ministry never considered closing the trade office in Jordan, but wanted to improve commercial representation there, Foreign Trade Administration director Zohar Peri said yesterday.

"We never considered reducing activities, but to change the format," he said. "However, due to the sensitivity of the matter, we have now decided that it is not the right time to implement such a change."

"The idea was to give the commercial representation a better structure and make it more effective and efficient," he said.

A month ago, there were reports that the trade office would be closed due to cutbacks, causing a diplomatic incident. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu intervened to ensure that the office would remain open.

The ministry was apparently planning to name an envoy to Jordan with top experience and credentials, in an attempt to find the best person for the job, who would commute to Amman a few days a week.

"We were considering a better alternative," Peri said.

This week a decision was made to continue to operate the office with a full-time representative. The present attaché, Shaul Sasson, is to

complete his term in the summer and a new envoy will be named, Peri said.

The number of trade offices around the world will not be reduced either, he said. However, he said there may be some changes in some countries to maximize resources. Peri would not say which trade offices would be closed.

During the budget discussions, the Treasury asked the ministry to make cuts in its budget for foreign representations. However, Peri said that the government decided to side with the Industry and Trade Ministry and the budget was not cut.

"The Industry and Trade Ministry never agreed to make cuts," he said.

Superior Telecom to buy 51% of Zion Cables for NIS 90m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Superior Telecom has signed a letter of intent for the acquisition of 51 percent of Zion Cables United Works for NIS 90 million, according to Clal Industries and Investments, which holds 33% of the company.

The selling shareholders, Clal and ISAL Holland, also agreed to grant Superior a two-year option to purchase all or a portion of their remaining 19% stake in the cable and wire manufacturer at the original purchase price.

Superior CEO Steven S. Elbaum

said that the purchase is in line with the company's strategy to expand into selected international markets and position itself for longer term growth opportunities. He added that Zion Cables will be operated as a majority-owned consolidated subsidiary of Superior copper wire and cable subsidiary.

In a statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Clal said that the deal will generate a small profit for the company.

Clal Industries president Rimón Ben-Shaul said that the sale is in line with the company's strategic plan.

"We are getting out of companies in traditional industries that can not exist with a connection with international companies."

Ben-Shaul said.

He said that the opening of the local cable market to competition forced Clal to start looking for a potential buyer.

"The local cable firms can only survive as part of a larger international body," Ben-Shaul said.

He added that the company sold its holdings in Zion at a price which is 50% higher than its market value.

Superior makes and supplies cable wire to phone companies. Zion Cables sells a broad range of fiber and copper wire and cable products to Bezeq Israel Telecom and other customers here and abroad. The company's UK-based subsidiary, Premier Cables, distributes cables in the British market.

US waste companies in \$20b. deal

HOUSTON (Bloomberg)

USA Waste Services Inc. agreed to buy Waste Management Inc. for more than \$20 billion in stock and assumed debt, combining two of the three largest US waste-disposal companies to cut costs and boost earnings.

USA Waste will offer 0.725 share for each Waste Management share, and give Waste Management shareholders about 60 percent of the combined company. The offer values Waste Management shares at about \$28.37 each, a 13% premium to its closing price Tuesday of 25 3/16.

USA Waste's purchase of the No. 1 US waste hauler - its tenth acquisition in four years - will more than quadruple its sales of \$2.6 billion and transform the 11-year-old company into the world's largest garbage disposal enterprise, twice as big in sales as its nearest rival, Browning-Ferris Industries Corp.

"Consolidation in the US waste business has been expected for some time," said Nigel Hawkins, analyst at Williams de Broe in London. "Well-publicized problems have caused controversy for Waste Management."

For Waste Management, the move will close a troubled year in which its top job changed three times and it said its earnings

going back to 1992 were overstated. For USA Waste, the No. 3 hauler, buying Waste Management will be the crowning achievement of an acquisition strategy engineered by Chief Executive John Drury since 1994.

Waste Management's \$7b. in debt will comprise the bulk of the combined group's debt of \$10.3b., slightly less than its combined 1997 revenue of \$11.8b. The Oak Brook, Illinois-based company said it expects debt to drop to \$8.4b. this year. Waste Management said it expects cost savings of at least \$800 million by combining the companies and said the takeover will boost both companies' operating earnings next year.

Operating earnings per share for the combined company is expected to be from \$2.90 to \$3.05 in 1998 and \$3.55 to \$3.70 a share in 2000, it said.

Houston-based USA Waste's Drury will be CEO. The combined company will be called Waste Management and be based in Houston.

"In this new era, we will stop playing defense and start playing offense," said Robert "Steve" Miller, Waste Management's chairman and chief executive, who will be non-executive chairman of the new company.

Customs and VAT Dept.
Material Resources Section
Tel. 02-670 3482/3

Tender 3/98

Renovation Work, Customs House, 42 Rehov Yefet, Jaffa
Bids are invited for renovation work on the two floors of the Investigations Unit, in the Customs House, 42 Rehov Yefet, Jaffa, as detailed in the tender documents.

- The technical specification and tender forms can be obtained against payment of NIS150, including VAT (non-refundable) from Mr. Hani Hani, at the Customs House, 42 Rehov Yefet, Jaffa, Sunday to Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- This amount may be paid at branches of the Postal Bank, to the credit of Account 0-050055. The receipt or receipted payment slip for this payment must be attached to the bid, falling which it will not be considered.
- As a participation pre-condition, the following should be attached to the bid:
 - A copy of the bidder's authorized trader's certificate for VAT purposes.
 - A bank check/bank guarantee for NIS20,000, guaranteeing the bid, account books, as required by the Income Tax Ordinance, the confirmation being issued by an income tax assessing officer or an auditor.
 - Confirmation that the bidder is registered in the Register of Contractors.
 - Confirmation that the bidder is a contractor, recognized by the Inter-ministry Commission.
 - A list of works of similar scope, carried out by the bidder.
 - The bid should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked "Tender 3/98", by May 7, 1998, at 12 noon. It should be placed in the tenders box at the Customs management offices, 32 Rehov Agon, P.O.B. 320, Jerusalem 91002.
 - No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

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DIAL 03-5199111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.
DISCOUNT BANK

TARGET (מטרות)
Mutual Fund for
Foreign Residents

Date: 10.3.98
Purchase Price: 131.60
Redemption Price: 130.59

MUTUAL FUNDS
LEUMIPIA

PRIME (פריים)
Mutual Fund for
Foreign Residents

Date: 10.3.98
Purchase Price: 118.29
Redemption Price: 117.65

MUTUAL FUNDS
LEUMIPIA

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SPORTS

in brief

Iwan Evans quits international rugby

CARDIFF (Reuters) — Wales and British Lions winger Iwan Evans announced his retirement from international rugby yesterday.

Evans, 34 next week, captained Wales a record 28 times in his 71 internationals, scoring 33 tries.

He has played only once for Wales in the past year because of injury and British Lions commitments.

Evans, who plays club rugby for Bath, said: "With the increasing demands of club and international rugby I've decided the time is right to lighten the burden."

Barcelona beat Dortmund, take Super Cup

DORTMUND (Reuters) — Barcelona secured the European Super Cup last night with a 1-1 draw in the second leg and a 3-1 aggregate victory over Borussia Dortmund.

Brazilian midfielder Giovanni put the Spanish side ahead in the eighth minute, effectively killing off the game as a contest. Barcelona dominated the rest of the half.

Dortmund started the second period more brightly and were rewarded with a Joerg Heinrich goal in the 64th minute.

Both sides then had their chances to clinch a win on the night but Barcelona's first title under Louis van Gaal never looked in doubt.

Albanian soccer coach in a coma after shooting

TIRANA (Reuters) — Perlat Musta, coach of first division club Partizani Tirana, was in a coma yesterday after he was shot and seriously wounded, the Albanian interior ministry said.

Musta, 40, a former international goalkeeper, was shot with a semi-automatic rifle by a neighbor who later admitted to the crime for "personal reasons." Interior ministry spokesman Artan Bizhga said Musta was not in a life-threatening condition. Hospital sources said the coach was still in a coma.

Earlier in the week, second-placed Partizani said it would boycott the first division championship because of repeated attacks on players and referees in stadiums.

Harkness threatens to sue Collymore

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) — Liverpool defender Steve Harkness said yesterday he was considering legal action against Aston Villa striker Stan Collymore to stop him repeating claims that he racially abused the £7 million striker.

The pair had called a truce after meeting face to face at the Professional Footballers Association on Sunday.

But Collymore then infuriated Harkness by appearing on a television show to discuss their dispute which arose out of comments allegedly made by Harkness to Collymore during Aston Villa's premier league match against Liverpool on February 28.

Harkness' solicitor Richard Hallows told the Daily Mirror: "We're very disappointed Collymore has done this, after everything the players agreed to."

Islanders fire coach Bowness

UNIONDALE, New York (Reuters) — The New York Islanders fired head coach Rick Bowness yesterday, replacing him on the bench with general manager Mike Milbury.

Milbury, who gave up his coaching duties with the Islanders 14 months ago to concentrate on his role as general manager, will again pull double duty for the team.

The Islanders are 22-32-9 for the season, seven points out of eighth place for the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference with 19 games remaining this season.

Bowness, 43, was 37-50-12 since taking over for Milbury as head coach on January 23, 1997.

Milbury, 45, had a 36-73-9 overall mark as Islanders' coach before stepping down.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER — Results last night: Premier league: Aston Villa 0, Barnsley 1; Chelsea 6, Crystal Palace 2; Leeds United 4, Blackburn Rovers 0; West Ham United 1, Manchester United 1.

Bruins beat Red Wings on power play goals

DETROIT (AP) — Tim Taylor had a goal and two assists and the Boston Bruins scored three power-play goals to beat Detroit 6-3 Tuesday night, handing the Red Wings their third straight loss.

Raymond Bourque, Sergei Samonov, Rob DiMaio, Dmitri Khristich and Anson Carter also scored for the Bruins, who won for the fourth time in their last six games and ended a nine-game losing streak to Detroit that dated back to Dec. 31, 1991.

Islanders 2, Sabres 2
In Uniondale, New York, Jason Wooley's power-play goal at 7:42 of

the third period lifted the Buffalo Sabres to a tie with the Islanders.

All four goals were scored on the power play, as referee Richard Trotter issued 16 power-play chances, nine to the Islanders.

Devils 2, Flyers 2
In Philadelphia, Jason Amott set up both goals for the New Jersey Devils, but Alexandre Daigle came up with a big goal for the second game in a row as the Philadelphia Flyers rallied for a tie.

Daigle, whose goal gave the Flyers a 4-3 overtime win over Pittsburgh on Sunday, tied it with five minutes left with a slap shot from the slot.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	39	16	9	87	184	127
Philadelphia	32	20	18	74	180	144
Washington	28	24	11	67	174	166
NY Rangers	19	37	4	42	155	211
NY Islanders	22	32	9	53	164	172
Florida	18	32	12	48	148	182
Panthers	15	41	9	35	121	206

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	32	18	14	78	182	151
Norfolk	30	25	7	67	180	159
Boston	27	23	13	67	163	151
Buffalo	25	22	15	65	156	149
Ottawa	25	28	10	60	143	154
Carolina	25	30	7	57	155	172

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	38	15	10	86	197	124
Detroit	34	18	13	81	194	152
St. Louis	32	8	20	74	200	154
Phoenix	24	28	12	60	173	183
Chicago	24	28	11	59	154	184
Toronto	21	33	8	50	147	181

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	33	17	16	82	195	140
San Jose	30	22	11	71	184	147
Edmonton	24	30	10	58	164	184
San Jose	25	30	7	57	155	164
Calgary	19	32	12	50	146	194
Anaheim	20	34	9	49	149	193
Vancouver	19	35	10	48	177	227

Tuesday's games: Buffalo 2, NY Islanders 2; New Jersey 2, Philadelphia 1; Boston 4, Detroit 3; Los Angeles 4, Phoenix 1.

Two women sue Tyson for \$22.5 million, claiming abuse

BALTIMORE (AP) — Two women suing Mike Tyson for \$22.5 million were traumatized when he verbally and physically abused them at a restaurant after his sexual advance was rejected, their lawyer said.

Tyson's lawyer, John Branca, said Tuesday that a counter suit is being considered.

"This is just another attempt to wrongfully embarrass Mike Tyson through meritless litigation against which he will vigorously defend himself," Branca said in a statement released through his spokesman. "He is currently considering a counter claim," Tyson adviser Jeff

Wald said the suit was "absurd." "We think it was a total setup for money," he said. "This guy's like a target for every greedy person out there."

The women claim in their lawsuit that the former heavyweight champ grabbed one of them, cursed at the other one and overruled a table before hot coffee was thrown on him to "impede his attack" at a Washington bistro on March 1.

Tyson, who served three years in prison for rape, became even more enraged when he found out one of the women is a corrections officer, the lawsuit says.

It's beat Bologna or bust for Maccabi

By ELI GRONER

Over the years, Maccabi Tel Aviv has played eight games in Bologna — and lost every one.

In order to advance to the EuroLeague's quarterfinals against Kinder Bologna, Maccabi will have to pull off a historical first and win a decisive third game on the road in Bologna at 21:30 tonight (live broadcast, Channel 1).

Now, more than ever, Maccabi is getting a sense as to the enormity of its wasted opportunity in game 1 — when the Israelis led by five with two-and-a-half minutes remaining, yet still failed to win. Tonight, Maccabi will have not only a sold-out opposing crowd to deal with, but the element of surprise — which has been key for Maccabi thus far — is gone.

Teamsystem's players and coaching staff have said that Maccabi is much better and mentally tougher than they had expected. Earlier this week, Bologna's mercurial point guard, David Rivers, said, "Earlier in the series we had players who were overconfident. Now we know that Maccabi is definitely one of the best teams in Europe."

Although the surprise factor isn't relevant any more, Maccabi's tenacity throughout the series has been an excellent sign. Not only has Maccabi not backed down from the imposing Italians, Coach Vinko Jelovac's club has been forcing the action for the most part. There are, however, a number of things to watch out for in tonight's decisive matchup.

Defense: Dominique Wilkins — Bologna's leading scorer at 18 points per game has been held to 13.5 on 9 of 26 shooting. Randy White will probably be assigned to Wilkins tonight — as he was in game 2 — and frustrating Wilkins is imperative.

Bologna is 17 for 39 from three-point range (44%) — Maccabi can't allow them to be that successful tonight.

Gregor Fucsa — has been outstanding, averaging 14 points on 57 percent shooting, and 10 rebounds a game. If that isn't enough, he had 33 and 15 in Bologna's Italian League

game on Sunday. Nadav Henefeld will have his hands full tonight, in Maccabi's most important defensive matchup.

Offense:

Decision making — Maccabi was horrendous in Sunday's 22-point drubbing by Ra'anana. Oded Katash has a tendency to make too many bad decisions which are detrimental to the team. Despite the fact that he is Maccabi's most popular player amongst fans and journalists, he is also the most overrated. Katash will have to play responsibly. In addition, Doron Sheffer will have to be at the top of his game. A point guard has an immeasurable effect on road games of this nature. As Sheffer goes tonight, so will Maccabi.

The foreigners — Rashard Griffith and Randy White are vital for Maccabi's inside-outside game, which has been extremely effective of late. In order to win tonight, Griffith has to touch the ball on 65% of Maccabi's possessions and White has to stay out of foul trouble.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, fans and players don't like to acknowledge it, but referees play an important part in final games of playoff series. So far, the officiating has been pretty balanced, but the Bologna management has been working overtime over the last week, raking the zebras over in the press. Bologna coach Valerio Bianchini has already blamed the referees for his game 2 loss.

Referees have a tendency to call deciding games extremely closely, which could work against Maccabi. The Israelis will have to weather the inevitable bad calls, and do their utmost to stay out of foul trouble. This means that Jelovac will have to utilize his bench more effectively than he has at any point this season.

In fact, more so than any other Maccabi representative, this game will be a test for Jelovac, and how he performs. If he lets Derrick Sharp, Borko Radovic and Constantin Popa give the starters five to eight minutes of rest at crucial junctures during the game — and not just put them in when White, Henefeld or Griffith gets in foul trouble — Maccabi should win.



VITAL LINK — Rashard Griffith will need to reproduce his best form if Maccabi are to succeed against Teamsystem Bologna tonight.

Jordan scores 37 as Bulls beat Heat

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 37 points and the Chicago Bulls weren't intimidated by Alonzo Mourning's flying elbows as they defeated the Miami Heat 106-91 Tuesday night.

Scottie Pippen added 19 points for the Bulls (46-16), who moved 2 1/2 games ahead of Indiana and 3 1/2 games ahead of Miami in the race for the best record in the East. The two-time defending NBA champions shot 54 percent in winning for the 12th time in 13 games.

Mourning scored 21 points for Miami, which had its 11-game road winning streak snapped.

Knicks 85, Magic 78
In New York, Charlie Ward reached double figures in points and assists for the second straight game — and only the second time this season — to help New York beat Orlando.

Ward had 10 points and 10 assists as the Knicks completed a sweep of the four-game season series and snapped a three-game losing streak that tied their longest of the season.

Nick Anderson scored 25 for the Magic, who had a three-game victory streak stopped as they lost for only the third time in 11 games. Larry Johnson led the Knicks with 19 points, Charles Oakley grabbed 13 rebounds and Allan Houston, John Starks and Terry Cummings scored 12 apiece.

Rockets 97, Mavericks 91
In Houston, Clyde Drexler scored 24 points and two players had strong

games after returning from one-game suspensions to help Houston beat Dallas.

Kevin Willis had 20 points and 12 rebounds, Hakeem Olajuwon had 13 points, eight rebounds and four stitches over his right eye after colliding with Cedric Ceballos.

Wizards 93, Bucks 77

In Milwaukee, Chris Webber scored 24 points and Rod Strickland had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as Washington beat Milwaukee.

Washington, which stopped a three-game road losing streak, got 12 points from Webber in the first quarter, took a 36-17 lead early in the second and coasted, sending the cold-shooting Bucks to their fifth

loss in six games.

Ray Allen led the Bucks with 15 points, while Ricky Pierce and Elliot Perry had 12 each.

Suns 100, Nuggets 76

In Denver, Antonio McDyess scored 18 points, Jason Kidd had 17 and Phoenix handed Denver its 16th straight loss.

The Suns toyed with the NBA's worst team (5-58) until early in the third quarter, when a 9-0 run fueled by Kidd and McDyess gave Phoenix a 59-45 lead. Denver got no closer than 12 points the rest of that period, and Phoenix extended its lead to 27 in the final period.

Johnny Newman led Denver with 20 points. LaPhonso Ellis had 14 points and nine rebounds.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pts	GB
Miami	43	20	48	
New York	35	26	57	7
New Jersey	33	30	54	10
Washington	33	30	52	10
Orlando	32	29	51	10 1/2
Boston	29	32	45	15
Philadelphia	21	39	39	20 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pts	GB
Chicago	46	16	74	
Indiana	43	18	70	2 1/2
Charlotte	38	23	62	7 1/2
Atlanta	34	24	60	9
Cleveland	32	29	52	13 1/2
Memphis	29	31	48	16 1/2
Detroit	27	34	43	18 1/2
Toronto	13	48	23	32 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pts	GB
Utah	44	16	73	
San Antonio	42	20	67	3
Minnesota	32	29	52	12 1/2
Houston	31	31	50	14
Memphis	15	45	29	29
Dallas	13	49	20	32
Denver	5	58	9	40 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pts	GB
LA Lakers	42	15	75	
LA Lakers	41	18	70	4
Phoenix	41	21	64	6
Portland	34	25	57	13 1/2
Sacramento	26	37	43	28 1/2
Golden State	14	47	29	32 1/2
LA Clippers	13	48	23	33 1/2

Tuesday's games: New York 85, Orlando 76; Chicago 104, Miami 91; Washington 93, Milwaukee 77; Boston 97, Dallas 91; San Antonio 79, New Jersey 78; Phoenix 100, Denver 74; Seattle 111, Toronto 97.

Graf sails into Evert Cup semifinals

INDIAN WELLS, Ca. (Reuters) — Steffi Graf looked like she never left as she destroyed Natasha Zvereva on Tuesday to roll into the semifinals of the Evert Cup women's tennis tournament.

The 28-year-old former No. 1, playing just her second tournament after nine months away following knee surgery, overwhelmed the 15th seed from Belarus 6-3, 6-0 for her 17th consecutive victory over Zvereva.

Second seed Lindsay Davenport cruised into the quarter-finals with a 6-2, 6-2 demolition of 13th seed Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania.

In a field crowded with fresh and bold young faces, fifth seed Conchita Martinez struck a blow for

the veterans.

The former Wimbledon champion faced down a spirited challenge from 16-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova to score a 6-3 6-4 third-round victory.

However, 17-year-old American Venus Williams made sure youth was served when she out-slugged Belgium's Dominique Van Roost 6-4, 6-1 in another third-round match.

In the quarter-finals Williams faces South African Joannette Kruger, who upset fourth-seeded compatriot Amanda Coetzer 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Sampras, Rafter advance
Pete Sampras began his 100th consecutive week as the No. 1 player in the world with a straight sets

victory at the Champions Cup event also being held at Indian Wells.

Sampras, who received a first-round bye, moved into the third round with a 6-1, 7-5 win over Todd Martin, raising his career advantage over his Davis Cup teammate to 13-2.

Third seed Patrick Rafter of Australia had a much tougher time than Sampras gaining the third round, while fourth-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov failed to survive his opener.

US Open champion Rafter labored for more than two hours before putting away 38th-ranked South African Wayne Ferreira 7-5, 5-7, 6-4. The match ended on a bizarre note when a Rafter shot hit the net cord, bounced over Ferreira and landed in

Kafelnikov was upended 6-3, 6-3 by last year's surprise finalist Bohdan Ulihrach, who had won just two matches this year coming into Indian Wells.

Kafelnikov was not the day's lone seeded casualty. American Jan Michael Gambill outlasted 12th seed Mark Philippoussis of Australia 7-6 (9-7), 5-7, 7-6 (8-6) in a first-round match, and 16th-seeded Spaniard Alberto Berasategui retired after one game of the second set with Czech Slava Dosedel because of a blister on his right hand.

Unseeded former No. 1 Thomas Muster of Austria downed 15th-seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a second round encounter.

England has dropped from 91.94 to 80.30. "I don't want my form with the bat to become an issue," he said.

England captain Michael Atherton said that his selectors would keep all options wide open when picking their team.

But they are expected to drop left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell and bring back fast-medium bowler Andrew Caddick compared with the side beaten in Guyana.

Probable teams: West Indies: Brian Lara (captain), Phil Wallace, Clayton Lambert, Carl Hooper, Shemarjit Chandani, Roland Holder, David Williams, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Nayan Mehta.

England: Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell, Robert Croft, Andrew Caddick, Dean Headley, Angus Fraser.

"I want people to know that I am still one of the top players in the world and I can only do that by scoring runs," he said.

"I have made fifties at Bridgetown in the past but not gone on to make hundreds," Lara averages 47.33 in the series but his average against

Havelange backs England World Cup bid

LONDON (Reuters) — England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup finals was given an unexpectedly powerful boost by FIFA president Joao Havelange yesterday.

After a 45-minute meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Havelange said: "It is my personal wish that the 2006 World Cup takes place in England."

"By then it would have been 40 years since England staged the World Cup and it means that by 2010 it will be 60 years since Brazil hosted the tournament and they should be candidates then."

"The centerpiece of the bid and the most important element will be a rebuilt Wembley stadium which is something England will be proud of." Havelange's unexpected backing confirmed England as the front runners to host the finals and was welcomed by England FA chief executive Graham Kelly.

"It is very pleasing to hear Dr. Havelange's opinion like this, it is very welcome indeed."

"We also have the total support of the government and although Dr. Havelange will not be FIFA president when the decision is made in the summer of 2000 he remains a very influential and strong man in world football."

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper, said afterwards that Havelange had been extremely impressed with England's courage in rebuilding Wembley stadium.

"The president felt that to knock down a monument like Wembley you have to replace it with a better monument. The new stadium would be an outstanding symbol for the 2006 World Cup," he said.

England, who hosted the World Cup in 1966, are one of three countries definitely bidding for the 2006 World Cup. Finals along with Germany and South Africa.

Other nations, including Morocco and Egypt, are said to be considering hosting the tournament and joint bids are believed to be under consideration from Argentina and Brazil and from Peru and Ecuador.

Candidates have until September

CRITICS' CHOICE



The Tel Aviv Adloyada celebrates Purim in a big way.

PURIM

HELEN KAYE

The Tel Aviv Adloyada, a big parade with floats, marching bands, dancers, singers, entertainment and so on, marches down Allenby starting from Yimiyahu and Ben-Yehuda at 11 a.m.

In Jerusalem, the Habama parade is on the Ben-Yehuda Mall at 8:30 p.m. In Holon, there's another big parade, mostly for the kiddies, going down Sokolow and Weizmann streets from 6:30 p.m. and ending at the municipality with a big fireworks display.

At Yotzatan Yerushalmi Hall in the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, the Ona Post Children and Youth Theater presents at 10:30 a.m. *Eight in Search of One*, a comic thriller. At 4:30 p.m. is *The Ugly Duckling*. (Hebrew)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Alexander Korsanitsa, winner of the Eighth Arur Rubinstein International Master Piano Competition, gives a gala recital Saturday (8:30) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv to mark the opening of the Ninth Arur Rubinstein Competition in Tel Aviv. Korsanitsa plays music by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann. The competition itself opens next Tuesday.

The Domitius Abbey in Jerusalem resumes its concert series Saturday (8:30) with soprano Eva Ben-Zvi and an ensemble of eight cellists performing music by Villa-Lobos, Vivaldi and Bach. The Dutch Quink Vocal Ensemble performs Sunday (8:30) at the Tel Aviv Museum, singing music by Britten and Seiber, as well as European folk songs.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:00 News Flash
8:30 News in Arabic
9:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Pretty Butterfly
8:25 Cartoons
8:50 The Snow Queen
9:20 Anne Anne
(1992) - a girl mistakenly duplicates herself
11:20 Purrin Feast
12:40 Zehu Zeh
12:50 Armetech
15:00 AFI's Fairy Tale

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Miss Zap
Universe - for Purrin
15:45 The Sound and The Street
16:00 Zapzap
16:45 Miss Zap Universe
16:55 A New Evening
17:24 Miss Zap Universe
18:15 News in English
23:30 CNN News

ARABIC PROGRAMS

15:00 Meeting Point
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News Flash
18:31 Local pop
18:53 Filmed on the Street
20:00 News
20:30 Sports broadcast
21:30 Basketball - Team System vs Maccabi TA
23:25 Filmed on the Street
23:30 News
00:00 Time for Language

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Street
6:00 News
6:30 Rainbow Children
6:43 This Morning
8:00 Pivka Meeting
8:55 Jansons Meeting
11:55 Adloyada - Ave from Tel Aviv
13:00 Boogie's Diner
13:20 23 & 7
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tivoli
15:00 Casper
15:25 Halloween Special
15:28 Meeting Point
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
16:50 Film with Freshet
17:30 Open Case
18:00 Roseanne
18:35 Adloyada - Holon
18:57 Spin City
20:00 News
20:30 Shemesh
21:05 Only in Israel
Erez Tal and Orna
Banal looking behind
21:15 Night Case
22:12 Wedding
Banquet (1993) - a young Taiwanese
American finds a way to keep his secret
hidden from his parents and get a Green
Card. With a cast of
directed by Ang Lee
00:00 News
00:05 Wedding
Banquet - cont'd
1:00 Miriam's Cabaret
2:00 Guitar Festival
3:01 Anything But Love
3:25 On the Edge of the Street

CHANNEL 3 (23)

15:30 Riding High
16:00 Purrin Feast
17:00 Mariana
17:20 Mollers
18:00 Desires
18:30 Art Workshop
19:00 Comedy Company
19:30 AFI's AFI
20:00 A New Evening
21:00 Cinecopia
21:30 Natural Wonders of Europe
23:00 Sharpe

CHANNEL 5 (23)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (pt)
7:30 Love Story with Yael Sivan (pt)
8:00 News
8:30 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Duce Ana (pt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 John Lemarque
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:30 Days of Our Lives
15:30 Murphy Brown
16:00 Duce Ana
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yael Sivan
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Hercules
21:00 Xena
21:30 The Young and the Restless
22:00 Year Lapid
22:45 Seinfeld
23:15 Ricki Lake
00:30 Sex Stalkings
01:40 AFI's AFI
1:35 Love Boat

JORDAN TV (21)

(unconfirmed)
14:00 Holy Koran

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Lily Dale (1998)
- adaptation of Horton Foote's play about a young man who returns to his Houston home in 1910 after a long absence to find his father's estate in a state of ruin.
12:30 Lovers and Liars
13:15 Home Song
(1998) - a high school principal discovers a student who is his son by an old lover.
14:45 The Legend of Gatorface (1995) - two teenagers save their lives by taking refuge in a swampy area called "Gatorface".
16:25 The Christmas Box (1995) - a rich widow takes in a stepson who is a trouble maker and his family as caretakers and teaches them the value of family. With Maureen O'Hara, Anette O'Toole and Kelley McCulloch.
18:00 Kissin' Cats (1995) - romantic comedy about a salesman who is about to marry his boss when he falls in love with his friend's mail-order bride. With Larry Pindexter.
18:35 Special program on the movie The Godfather with Daniel Day-Lewis.
20:10 Who Framed Roger Rabbit? (1988)
20:30 The Godfather
21:30 The Godfather
21:45 Lovers and Liars
22:00 The Arena
22:00 Dream with Michael Varsi
23:00 Married with Children
23:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
23:40 Helen and the Boys
23:55 Sweet Valley High
00:10 Beverly Hills 90210

CABLE

18:00 Purim on the Children's Channel
18:30 Superman
18:45 Purim on the Children's Channel
19:00 The Godfather
19:15 Lovers and Liars
19:30 The Arena
19:30 Dream with Michael Varsi
20:00 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:40 Helen and the Boys
21:05 Sweet Valley High
21:30 Beverly Hills 90210

SECOND SHOWING (5)

22:15 Follow the Fleet (1935) - a pair of sailors court two sisters. With Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Randolph Scott and Betty Grable.
00:05 Men Are Not Gods (1936, 79 mins.) - a theater critic plans to pan a young actor's performance. The actor's wife persuades the critic's secretary to rewrite the piece, and she leads to unexpected romance. With Rex Harrison and Miriam Hopkins.

CHILDREN (5)

8:30 Cartoons
8:50 Shindig the Sailor
9:30 The Smurfs
9:50 Animations
10:30 Purim on the Children's Channel
10:40 Ninja Turtles
10:50 Purim on the Children's Channel
11:00 The Godfather
11:15 Supermen
11:30 Purim on the Children's Channel
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PURIM BASKET CASES

Order Yours Today

Hoter-Yishai fruitcake basket
Mossad deadly toxin variety pack
Metanyahu slapping tactics display
Bank of Israel basket of expensive goods

THE JERUSALEM GHOST

STEALING? DESPERATE?
DO IT THROUGH
THE JERUSALEM
GHOST

CLASSIFIED

Call Guido or Meyer
Stolen credit cards accepted
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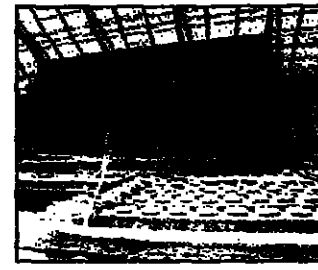
LOW-INTEREST FINANCING AVAILABLE



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Security Council
agrees on lunch
menu



7 On My Mind
Aryeh Deri's
5 favorite lawyers



16 Bad Sports
Winter Olympics:
Did anybody
notice?

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Tourism ministry miscounts Jubilee

By HAIM "FREE LUNCH" SHAPIRO

The scheduled 50th anniversary celebrations were called off yesterday, after an embarrassed Tourism Ministry official announced that a "miscount" of the years since the founding of the state meant that "we missed it - it was last year."

Tourism Ministry officials denied that the real reason behind the postponement was that nobody wanted to run the event, after a series of previous event organizers quit in frustration when they were unable to get the celebration plans off the ground.

"We're really very embarrassed, but it's all really simple," Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav said. "Someone inadvertently started counting with 1949 as the first year, but what about '48? Why shouldn't we start counting from then if that's when the state was founded?"

"We discussed this with Finance

Minister Yaakov Neeman, who put his best government statisticians on it. After running it through their computers, it emerges that, as we feared, the state is actually going to be 51 years old. We should have celebrated last year."

Asked whether this wasn't just a ploy to save money and avoid having to actually plan events, Katsav said: "No, and don't pay any attention to those Shas people behind the curtain in my office."

To make up for what is expected to be great public disappointment, Katsav is trying to push through a bill which would allow for counting backwards from next year on. This would allow the 50th anniversary celebrations to take place in 1999.

"Just think of the tourism potential: 50th year celebrations in '99, millennium in 2000. Although we're checking on that one now, too," Katsav said.

PM's aide urges ban on Purim pages

By JAY DIPLOMISKY

There is nothing funny about leftist newspapers publishing hoaxes on Purim. David Barley-Ann, the prime minister's communications advisor, told the Knesset Humor Committee yesterday.

"People believe what they read in newspapers," he said. "When they write that haw-haw stuff making fun of the prime minister or, God forbid, me, people think it's true. It must be stopped."

Barley-Ann, who used to edit *The Jerusalem Ghost* Purim pages, quoted a Shas member of the coalition as saying that God did not create newsprint to make

fun of Jews.

Barley-Ann added that the Prime Minister's Office was prepared to provide the *The Jerusalem Ghost* with material for the Purim page, promising that it would be "hilarious." At the same time, Barley-Ann vowed to sue "any leftist foreign-language daily newspaper published in Jerusalem" that quotes him in a fake Purim story.

David Grin, editor of the Purim page, was unavailable for comment, but had he been, he would have said that "Mr. Barley-Ann is as long-winded as he is ridiculous. And due to space constraints, he has no place on our Purim page."

Missing the point, or maybe not

"Be sure to send me," said Queen Victoria to the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. "A first copy of your next work."

Months later, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson duly obliged, sending his monarch straight from the press his

one. But in another sense, one can argue they haven't yet "got it." Launched with obscure aphorisms, which cannot be checked, from dead people one never heard of, it can plunge onwards - lurching first to the one hand, but then, on the other hand, to the other - scornful, like the new Russian republics, of communities to the Left, fascists to the Right, and mobsters footing the bill for the whole shebang.

IT HAS been suggested by Cardinal Sin, the eponymous head of the Philippines church, that the three main characteristics of human behavior are cogitation, explanation and masturbation (though Sin later claimed to have been misquoted - leaving us with a cardinal conundrum, so to speak.)

Though not strictly a Jewish or Zionist tenet, except insofar as the good cardinal's church could be regarded as an historical and heretical fugitive from the ranks of mainstream orthodoxy, it will yet serve as an adequate benchmark while one tries to remember what the hell one started off writing about anyway.

As the famed *Punch* raconteur, Arthur Buller, wrote in 1923: "There was a young lady named Bright, whose speed was far faster than light; She set out one day, in a relative way, And returned home the previous night."

That is the metaphor, if not the reality, not only for this column, but for how the present government - and a future one, if it is not the same - should now move: "as fast as the speed of light."

But then, it is only fair to ask, what is the speed of dark?

MUDDLED ISRAEL



ALMOZT AZ-IN-HELL

Produced by The David Brinn Experience

Lead laughs - Aryeh Dean
Cohen
Bass guffaws - Sam Orbaum
Snickers - Liat Collins
Belly laughs - David Isaacson
and Thomas O'Dwyer
Background chuckles -
Esther Hecht, Jay Bailey,
Ruth Beloff-Begun,
David Harris, Judy Siegel
Wiscracks - Ofer Zemach
Drums - Noran Gutierrez

March 12, 1998



Newly named Mossad heads, I'm a Runt Levine (bottom) and A Frier in a Chevy display the latest in camouflage disguises for Mossad agents sent on secret missions abroad. (Harvest Moon)

Egged retrains Mossad agents

By ARIEH O' RODRIGUEZ

The new head of the Mossad, singer Yeroham Gaon, has announced a "back to basics" policy for the scandal-ridden organization.

As part of the efforts to get the agency back on the right track, agents are being paired up with Egged bus inspectors as they hop on buses to check passengers' receipts.

"This provides hands-on experience at exposing wrongdoers, surveillance and apprehension," explained Gaon.

However some snags have emerged, admitted Gaon. One passenger who forgot to keep the little paper receipt from the driver was sideswiped by an agent

who administered a deadly nerve toxin into his skin with a tissue. Luckily, the Egged inspector was equipped with an antidote, which was administered on the spot.

"It's true, some of the agents are a little overzealous, but we're making steady progress," said Gaon, during a break from recording ads for his new album, *800 Best-Loved Hits*, which is being sold only through Mossad offices in friendly countries throughout Europe.

When agents graduate from the rigorous Egged inspection course, they are immediately sent to the country's top newspapers, *Yeriot in the Arnona* and *Mincha* to learn foolproof wiretapping and espionage techniques.

Start your life again

JONATHAN GROWSINDOOM

We recently had a good example of born-again Judaism at its best. Thanks to the unstinting piety and devotion of we ba'al teshuva types, war with Haman Saddam has been averted.

I make no excuse for the methods prescribed by our halachic tradition. Only by maintaining - over several centuries and thousands of miles - our vigil in black: only by keeping our sideburns twirly and our women in their place have we halachically sound Jews managed to save the day.

Of course the deluded secular masses will point to the efforts of the Benighted Nations' Mr. Anon in negotiating with Haman.

This is prophesied by Eyes Higher (*Begorrah*, VIII, XI) (if you read it upside down in front of a two-way mirror): "A dark man will come out of Africa. He will negotiate a false peace with the eastern dictator, the gnashing of teeth will stop, and the Israelites will think

they have been spared another Scud attack, until the next time, unless you do the ba'al teshuva thing."

If there had been a war, or had Israel been attacked, it would have been the fault of the Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Liberal and secular types.

But, thanks to the diligence and dedication of our yeshiva boys, we were spared a biological and chemical armageddon.

Jonathan Growsindoom is a Jerusalem Ghost columnist.



CHANNEL 1-IS-NOT-ENOUGH
09:00: *Parvessa of the Day*
(See the nightly news)

CHANNEL 2-MANY-COMMERCIALS
8:50: *On the Edge of the Shelf-life*
Current affairs program that takes stock of the merchandise at your local market. This week, we look at stale bread the vendor insists is fresh, curdled milk labeled "buttermilk," and muffins that are allegedly "supposed to be green."

11:00: *Zorba*
Program about the latest in computer wizardry and the lost generation of computer enthusiasts intricately enmeshed in the World Wide Web. This week, the show explores a new Soviet Internet system called Cyberia.
18:30: *The Empty Sests*
A live, in-depth look at the Knesset and the MKs who determine national policy. This week, six members actually in attendance and three somnambulist

CHANNEL 3'S-COMPANY
14:00: *The Love Sherut*
A madcap sitcom about the inevitable love affairs that bloom aboard the crowded, carnival van that shuttles passengers from Ben-Gurion Airport, driven by the irascible former IDF captain Perry Shuppert.

16:25: *Dream of Jenin*
Fantasy sitcom about a right-wing extremist who harbors hopes that one day the Jewish State will reclaim all PA territory. This week, sparks fly when Mendel ventures into Ramle, mistaking it for Ramallah.
20:25: *Clueless*
(See listing for 23:20)
21:10: *Zedra, The Jewish Princess*
Adventure drama about a beautiful young woman who roams the countryside armed to the teeth, jumping, screaming, and decimating every man she encounters. This week, more of the same.
23:20: *Le Femme Netanyahu*
Non-action melodrama about a woman skilled in the martial arts of tie-cheap, shoe-lifts-you, and lung-fusing herself with a savvy wife of a politician. This week, Sardonica smiles, waves, and hangs on to her husband's arm as she accompanies him on a world tour.

CHILDISH CHANNEL
16:50: *Major Adjustments*
Social drama about the trials and tribulations of new immigrants who gave up everything to come and live in this country. This week, Boris and Natasha, Steve and Edie, Michel and Michelle, and Pepto and Perla become fast friends when they spend a week together at the Interior Ministry, waiting for their numbers to be called.
18:00: *Beverly Hills? No, no, no, no!*
Series of night-time soap operas about Tel Aviv youngsters who think they're Brandon, Kelly, Valerie, David, Donna and Noah. (See *Ranai Aviv Gimpei*, *Foreign Born*, and *Deep Blue Eyes*)

BBC'S VIEW OF THE WORLD
7:30/21:30/5:30: *Hard Talk*
One-on-one interviews with politicians who have a hard time speaking in any language. This week, moderator Tim the Bastion of tough questions speaks to Ehud Barak, Rafael Eitan, Arik Sharon, and Shimon Peres.

Pollard-Lewinsky switch bungled by Mossad

By HILLEL SANDWICH, AP,
REUTERS, SACCO,
VANZETTI and YOUNG

A US-Israeli joint effort to swap convicted spy Jonathan Pollard for notorious intern Monica Lewinsky failed at the last minute, in another display of Mossad incompetence.

According to reliable sources I fortunately don't have to mention here because you take whatever I write at face value anyway, the plan: called for Pollard to be whisked out of his North Carolina

and took her to a secret Mossad laboratory.

There, a team of plastic surgeons worked feverishly throughout the night to achieve the ultimate switch: making Lewinsky look exactly like Pollard. Lip reduction, breast reduction and reverse electrolysis were employed by Mossad special operative Zsa Zsa Gaborowitz.

FBI and Secret Service agents then flew to Butler, North Carolina and took Pollard to the home of health guru Richard Simmons for some pointers on



Jonathan Pollard (left) and Monica Lewinsky meet for the first time after switching identities. (Brain Bender)

prison cell, and be replaced by Lewinsky.

"We had the green light from the Oval, er, Oval Office," said a Mossad agent familiar with the case. "President Clinton saw, the noose tightening around his neck, and needed a way out. He called our people in and offered the deal: We make Monica disappear, we get Jonathan."

Mossad agents flew first to Florida, where they again enlisted the help of Cindy, the female agent known for seducing Mordechai Vanunu. Cindy flew to Los Angeles and presented herself to Lewinsky as an expert cosmetologist, gaining her trust by showing her the fastest way to reapply lipstick after a secret tryst.

Lewinsky reportedly trusted the Mossad agent so much, she invited her back to Washington, where the agent planted a trap for Lewinsky by suggesting they get their nails done in a Washington suburb.

As Lewinsky asked for "something that matches the Big Creep's eyes," Mossad agents grabbed her

how to walk, before six of Baltimore's most famous drag queens started to work on him.

The transformation reportedly took several weeks, but Pollard passed several trial runs, including walking in and out of the White House without anyone batting an eyelash, other than one official saying: "Hi, Monica. He's waiting for you under the desk."

Mossad agents said Clinton was so excited by the plan, he got "personally involved," but they refused to elaborate. Code-named "The Big One," the plan would probably have succeeded had Pollard not been left unaccompanied for too long by a Mossad agent. The agent inadvertently lost him/her on a busy Annapolis street where Pollard was being kept in a safe house. The two were on the way to a cinema to see *The Spy Who Loved Me*.

Preliminary backup plans to switch Lewinsky with TV entertainer Roseanne Barr were scrapped when it was discovered that the two were the same person.

When only a woman will do

I personally don't think a woman can have too many girlfriends.

Don't get me wrong. I think the perfect husband is wonderful. But sometimes it's not enough. My own partner for life is so extraordinary that some of my single girlfriends still ask me in amazement: "Where on earth did you find him?"

But occasionally I find he is busy cooking or cleaning; or shopping or sorting things out; or working or looking after the baby, just when I need to talk to somebody about the difficulties of being a modern mother in the late 1990s.

That's when only girlfriends will do.

Or take what happens when you finally find time to contemplate your navel. Your husband might appear to be interested, but only a girlfriend will be able to seriously discuss with you whether or not a woman's belly button expands with every birth.

And then there are life's unforeseen disasters. Take for example, the day that the *Histadrut* goes on strike but your husband goes to

work. The *ozeret* and the *meta-palet* stay at home. And so do you - with an adorable 18-month-old.

Is hubby really going to realize how hard it is for you to get from the salon to the study without stepping on either a baby or Bamba?

No. It's your girlfriend, a phone call away, who is going to understand why you and baby are both crying.

I personally also find girlfriends an inspiration. It's great to be able to talk about the perfect partner and incredible son, but I don't know how a hardworking columnist could do her job if she couldn't mention her numerous, nameless friends now and again.

And then, there is the biggest benefit of all: Unlike husbands, girlfriends don't come attached with mothers-in-law. Even wonderful mothers-in-law like mine.

And this is why I feel so lucky to have a husband and son with whom I share my life. And my girlfriends and you, dear readers, with whom to share my secrets and theirs.

Home Alone



ALICE IN SOMMERLAND